

CAR. I. TABORIS.

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THE SCOTTISH POET.

MORISON'S

EDITION



This fair bird ry^d in her bill yam hold,
A fair branch, quare wrillen was with gold,
Awake, awake, I bring, tufar, I bring,
Thoe newis, glad. — Now laugh, & play, & sing
Kings Quair Can. VI

D. Allan inv.

J. Beugo sculp.



Gibson del.

Beege sc.

IACOBUS I. REX SCOTORUM.

THIS
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TO THE
HONOURABLE
STEWART ERSKINE,
Duke of BUCHAN,
PORTRAIT
OF
KING JAMES I.

THIS print was engraved from an authentic portrait in the collection of the EARL of BUCHAN, copied from the original, which is in the Keilberg Gallery, in the ancient mansion of the Lytrum Family, near Tubingen in Swabia.

Quhare as in ward, full oft I wold bewaille,
My deadly lyfe, full of payne and penance;
Saying oft thus, quhat have I gilt to faille
My freedom in this warld, and my plesance.

The long dayes and the nyghtis ake,
I wold bewaille my fortune in this wife.
For quhich again distresse, confort to seke,
My custum was on mornis for to rise,
Airly as day, O happy exercise!

K. QUAIR, CANTO II.

PORTRAIT OF KING JAMES I.

This print was engraved from an authentic por-
 trait in the collection of the Earl of Buchan, co-
 pied from the original, which is in the Kellogg Gal-
 lery, in the ancient mansion of the Lysons family,
 near Tisbury in Swabia.

Where as in word, full oft I wold bewaile,
 My deadly life, full of payne and penance;
 Saying oft thus, what have I gite to laile
 My freedom in this world, and my plesance.
 The long dayes and the nyghts she,
 I wold bewaile my fortune in this life.
 For quich again distesse; confort to seek,
 My custom was on morris for to see,
 Alike as day, O happy exercise!

R. QUAY, CARVER.

TO THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE
DAVID STEWART ERSKINE,
EARL OF BUCHAN,
LORD CARDROSS &c.

THIS
FIRST UNIFORM EDITION

OF THE
SCOTTISH POETS,

IS MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED;

AS A

SMALL TESTIMONY,

OF THE VERY HIGH ESTIMATION,
WHICH IS ENTERTAINED OF HIS LORDSHIP'S
PATRIOTIC AND ZEALOUS EXERTIONS,
IN PROMOTING THE INTERESTS OF LITERATURE
IN SCOTLAND;

AS WELL AS OF THE WARMEST GRATITUDE
FOR THE DISTINGUISHED FAVOUR
CONFERRED UPON,

HIS LORDSHIP'S MUCH OBLIGED,
AND MOST OBEDIENT,
HUMBLE SERVANTS,

R. MORISON AND SON.

TO THE
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MORISON'S EDITION.

THE

SCOTISH POETS.

MORRISON'S EDITION.

THE

SCOTTISH POETS.

THE
WORKS
OF
JAMES I,
KING OF SCOTLAND.

CONTAINING
THE KING'S QUAIR,
CHRISTIS KIRK OF THE GRENE,
AND
PEBLIS TO THE PLAY.

CONSIDER IT WARILIE, REDE AFTINER THAN ANIS
WEIL AT ANE BLINK SLIE POETRY NOT TANE IS.

GAVIN DOUGLASS.

PERTH:

Printed by R. Morison, Junior,

FOR R. MORISON AND SON, BOOKSELLERS; AND
SOLD BY G. G. J. AND J. ROBINSON, PA-
TERNOSTER-ROW, LONDON.

M,DCC,LXXXVI.

THE

WORKS

OF

JAMES

KING OF SCOTLAND

CONTAINING

THE KING'S QUAIR

CHRISTIE KIRK OF THE GREEN

AND

PEEBLES TO THE PLAY

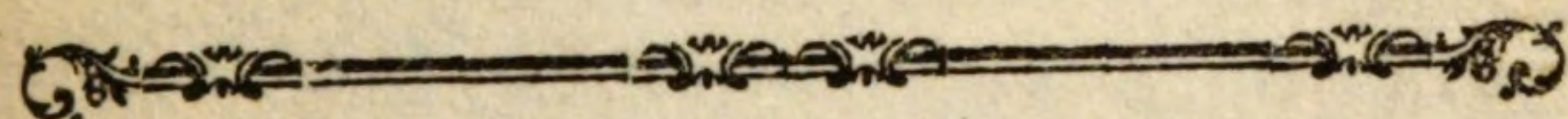
CONSIDERED IT WORTHIE, BEING A FINEER TREATISE
WELL AT AND BEING THE FORTY NOT TANE
GIVEN DUNGLAS

PRINTED

Printed by R. Gordon, Junr.

FOR R. MORISON AND SON, BOOKSELLERS; AND
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ST. MARTIN'S-LANE, LONDON.

M.DCC.LXXVII.



THE
KING'S QUAIR,
A
POEM
IN
SIX CANTOS.



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THE

KING'S QUARTER

A

POEM

IN

SIX CANTOS

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INTRODUCTION.

THE following poem is the composition of James I, king of Scotland, one of the most illustrious persons who figured in the beginning of the 15th century. All the Scottish historians agree in extolling him as a prince of eminent virtue, an extraordinary genius, endued with every branch of the learning of his age. Balenden Arch Dean of Murray in his translation of H. Boece's History thus characterises him.

“ He was well learnt to fecht with the sword,
“ to just, to tournay, to warfell, to sing and
“ dance, he was ane expert medeciner, richt
“ crafty in playing baith of lute and harp, and
“ findry other instruments of musik; he was
“ expert in grammar, oratry, and poetry, and
“ maid so flowand and sententious verses, ap-
“ peared weel he was ane naturall and born
“ Poete.”

This

This poem called the Quair was composed by him while he was a prisoner in the castle of Windsor, upon the lady Jane, a princess of the blood royal of England, whom he afterwards espoused : It probably would have shared the same fate of most of king James's other compositions, which are now lost, but for one manuscript copy of it which is preserved in the Bodleian Library at Oxford. In that immense treasure of erudition, it has lyen in obscurity until lately, that by the curiosity and research of William Tytler of Woodhouselee, one of the Vice Presidents of the Society of Scots Antiquaries at Edinburgh, an authentic copy of this fine ancient poem was procured and presented to the public with explanatory notes and historical and critical dissertations upon it, and the other poetical remains of king James I*.

As to the merit of the King's Quair, the public hath favourably determined ; indeed considering the age in which it was written, just
beginning

* Poetical remains of king James I. printed by J. and E. Balfours, Edinburgh, 1783.

beginning to emerge from the darkness which had long obscured the Western Hemisphere, for the fancy and invention, the genuine simplicity of sentiment, and the glow of descriptive poetry which runs through it, it is a remarkable work.

The design or theme is the royal poet's love for his beautiful mistress Jane, with whom he became enamoured while a prisoner at the Castle of Windsor. The recollection of the misfortunes of his youth, his early and long captivity, the incident which gave rise to his love, its purity, constancy, and happy issue, are all set forth by way of allegorical vision, according to the reigning taste of the age of king James I, as we find from the poems of Chaucer, Gower and Lydgate his co-temporaries.

Chaucer the father of English poetry as he is the first, so he is the best poet of his age. He has shown the extent of his genius and learning in almost every species of poetry, from his heroic poem of Palæmon and Arcite, to his ballads. It might be imputed to national prejudice

prejudice were we to rank the Scottish prince as his rival in poetry, if we make the comparison however between the *Court of Venus* in the following poem, and Chaucer's *Court of Love*, our Scottish poet, will lose nothing by such comparison, particularly in the portraiture of the mistress of each poet. The *Jane of King James* is painted with as much beauty and with more tender delicacy than the buxom *Rosial of Chaucer*.

It must be confessed, that many of the beauties of these ancient poems must escape us from the mutability of the language, in the space of near 400 years, an imperfection attendant on every living language.

For the better understanding of the ancient Scottish language in the age of king James I, and following, the reader is referred to the excellent and learned Glossary prefixed to Gavin Douglas's Scottish translation of the *Aeneis* of Virgil.

T H E

K I N G's Q U A I R.

C A N T O I.

I.

H E I G H in the hevynis figure circularre
The rody sterres twynkling as the fyre :
And in Aquary * *Citherea* the clere,
Rynsid hir treffis like the goldin wyre,
That late tofore, in faire and fresche atyre,
Thro' *Capricorn* heved hir hornis bright,
North northward approchit the myd nyght.

II.

Quhen as I lay in bed allone waking,
New partit out of flepe a lyte tofore,
Fell me to mynd of many diverse thing
Of this and that, can I not say quharefore,
Bot flepe for craft in erth myt I no more ;
For quhich as tho' coude I no better wyle,
Bot toke a boke to rede upon a quhile ;

A

III.

III.

Off quhich the name is clepit properly
b Boece, efter him that was the compiloure,
 Schewing counsele of philosophye,
 Compilit by that nobil senatoure
 Off Rome quhilome y^t was the warldis floure,
 And from estate by fortune a quhile
 Foringit was, to povert in exile.

IV.

And there to here this worthy lord and clerk,
 His metir fuete full of moralitee;
 His flourit pen so fair he set a werk,
 Discryving first of his prosperitee,
 And out of that his infelicitee;
 And than how he in his *c* poetly report,
 In philosophy can him to confort.

V.

For quhich tho^t I in purpose at my boke,
 To borowe a slepe at thilk time began,
 Or ever I stent my best was more to lōke
 Upon the writing of this nobil man,
 That in himself the full recover wan
 Of his infortune, poverti, and distresse,
 And in tham set his verray seckerneffe.

VI.

VI.

And so the vertew of his zouth before
 Was in his age the ground of his delytis :
 Fortune the bak him turnyt, and therefore
 He makith joye and confort y^t he quitis
 Of theire unsekir warldis appetitis,
 And so aworth he takith his penance,
 And of his vertew maid it suffisance.

VII.

With mony a nobil reson as him likit
 Enditing in his fair latyne tong,
 So full of fruyte, and rethorikly pykit,
 Quhich to declare my scole is over zong ;
 Therefore I lat him pas, and in my tong
 Procede I will agayn to my sentence
 Of my mater, and leve all incidence.

VIII.

The long ny^t beholding, as I faide,
 Myn eyne gan to smert for studying ;
 My boke I schet, and at my hede it laide,
 And doun I lay, bot ony tarying,
 This mater new in my mynd rolling,
 This is to feyne how y^t eche estate,
 As Fortune lykith, thame will translate.

A 2

IX.

IX.

For sothe it is, y^t, on her tolter quhele,
 Every wight cleverith in his stage,
 And failyng foting oft quhen hir left rele
 Sum up, sum doun, is non estate nor age
 Ensured more, the Prynce than the page,
 So uncouthly hir werdes she divideth,
 Namely in zouth, that seildum ought provideth.

X.

Among thir thoughtis rolling to and fro,
 Fell me to mynd of my fortune and ure,
 In tender zouth how sche was first my fo,
 And eft my frende, and how I gat recure
 Of my distresse, and all my aventure
 I gan ourhayle, y^t langer slepe ne rest
 Ne my^t I nat, fa were my wittis wrest.

XI.

For-wakit and for-wallouit thus musing,
 Wery for-lyin, I lestnyt fodaynlye,
 And sone I herd the bell to matins ryng,
 And up I rase na langer wald I lye;
 But now how trowe ze fuich a fantasye
 Fell me to my mynd, y^t ay me tho^t the bell
 Said to me, Tell on man, quhat the befell.

XII.

XII.

Thot I tho' to myself, quhat may this be?

This is my awin ymaginacion,

This is no lyf y^t spekis unto me,

It is a bell or that impressioun

Of my tho^t causith this illusioun,

That dooth me think so nycely in this wise.

And so befell as I schall zou devise.

XIII.

Determyt furth therew^t in myn entent,

Sen I thus have ymagynit of this foun,

And in my tyme more ink and paper spent

To lyte effect, I tuke conclusioun

Sum new thing to write; I set me doun,

And furth w^t all my pen in hand I tuke,

And maid a + and thus begouth my buke.

XIV.

Though zouth of nature indegest,

Unrypit fruyte w^t windis variable,

Like to the bird y^t fed is on the nest,

And can not flee, of wit wayke and unstable,

To fortune both and to infortune hable,

Wist thou thy payne to cum and thy travaille,

For sorow and drede wele my^t thou wepe and waile.

XV.

Thus stant thy confort in unsekerneffe,
 And wantis it, yt fuld the reule and gye,
 Ry^t as the schip that sailith sterclefs,
 Upon the rok most to harmes hye,
 For lak of it yt fuld bene her suppye;
 So standis thou here in this warldis rage,
 And wantis yt fuld gyde all thy viage.

XVI.

I mene this of myself, as in partye,
 Though nature gave me suffisance in zouth,
 The rypeness of reson lak I
 To governe with my will, so lyte I couth,
 Quhen sterclefs to travaille I begouth,
 Amang the wavis of this world to drive,
 And how the case anon I will describe.

XVII.

With doubtfull hert, amang the rokkis blake,
 My feble bote full fast to stercle and rowe,
 Helplefs alone the wynter ny^t I wake,
 To wayte the wynd yt furthward fuld me throwe
 O empti faile! quhare is the wynd fuld blowe
 Me to the port quhare gyneth all my game?
 Help, Calyope, and wynd, in Marye name!

XVIII.

XVIII.

The rokkis clepe I, the prolixitee
 Of doubtfulnesse y^t doith my wittis pall,
 The lak of wynd is the difficultee,
 In enditing of this lytill trecty small:
 The bote I clepe, the mater hole of all,
 My wit unto the faile y^t now I wynd,
 To seke conyng, tho' I bot lytill fynd.

XIX.

At my begynning first I clepe and call
 To zou Clio and to zou Polyme,
 With *e* Thesiphone goddis and sistris all,
 In nowmer IX. as bokis specifye,
 In this processe my wilsum wittis gye,
 And with zour bry^t lanternis wele convoye
 My pen to write my turment and my joye.

The

XVIII

The noblest of all the sciences
 Of doubtless is the noblest of all
 The task of wrynd is the difficult
 In writing of this little treatise
 The poet I chose, the matter, bold of all
 My wit unto the task I now I wrynd
 To take, conyng, tho' I bot I still stand

XIX

At my begynning first I chose and call
 To you Olio and to you Polyme
 With a Theophrastus goddis and thus all
 In nowner IX, as doles I praye
 In this procellis my wylde wrynd
 And with your by, Iasteris wyle conyng
 My pen to write my tument and my joye

The

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T H E

K I N G's Q U A I R.

C A N T O II.

HIS INTENDED VOYAGE TO FRANCE.

I.

IN vere y^t full of vertu is and gude,
Quhen nature first begyneth hir enprise,
That quhilum was be cruel frost and flude,
And schouris scharp opprest in mony wise,
And *f* Synthius gyneth to aryse
Heigh in the est, a morrowe soft and fuede,
Upward his course to drive in Ariete.

II.

Passit bot myd-day foure greis evin
Of lenth and brede his angel wingis bry^t,
He spred upon the ground doun fro the hevin,
That for gladnesse and confort of the fight,
And with the tiklyng of his hete and light,
The tender flouris opynit thame and sprad,
And in thair nature thankit him for glad.

III.

III.

g Not far passit the state of innocence
 Bot nere about the nowmer of zeiris thre,
 Were it causit throu hevinly influence
 Of Goddis will, or other casualtee,
 Can I not say, bot out of my contree,
 By thair avise y^t had of me the cure
 Be see to pas, tuke I my aventure.

IV.

Purvait of all y^t was us necessarye,
 With wynd at will, up airely by the morowe,
 Streight unto schip no longere wold we tarye,
 The way we tuke the tyme I tald to forowe,
 With mony fare wele, and Sanct Johne to borowe
 Of falowe and frende, and thus w^t one assent,
 We pullit up saile and furth our wayis went.

V.

Upon the wevis weltring to and fro,
 So infortunate was we that fremyt day,
 That maugre plainly quethir we wold or no,
 W^t strong hand by forse schortly to say,
 Of inymyis taken and led away,
 We weren all, and bro^t in thaire contree,
 Fortune it schupe non othir wayis to be.

VI.

VI.

b Quhare as in strayte ward, and in strong prison,
 So fere forth of my lyf the hevy lyne,
 W^tout confort in sorowe, abandoune
 The secund siftere, lukit hath to twayne,
 Nere, by the space of zeris twice nyne,
 Till Jupiter his merci list advert,
 And send confort in relefche of my smert.

VII.

Quhare as in ward full oft I wold bewaille
 My dedely lyf, full of peyne and penance,
 Saing ryt thus, quhat have I gilt to faille,
 My fredome in this world and my plesance?
 Sen every wight has thereof fuffifance,
 That I behold, and I a creature
 Put from all this, hard is myn aventure?

VIII.

The bird, the beste, the fisch eke in the see,
 They lyve in fredome everich in his kynd;
 And I a man, and lakith libertee
 Quhat fall I seyne, quhat reson may I fynd,
 That fortune fuld do so? thus in my mynd,
 My folk I wold argewe, bot all for not,
 Was none that my^t y^t on my peynes rought.

IX.

IX.

Than wold I fay, Giff God me had devist
 To lyve my lyf in thraldom thus and pyne,
 Quhat was the cause y^t he more me comprisit,
 Than othir folk to lyve in such ruyne?
 I suffere alone amang the figuris nyne,
 Ane wofull wrache y^t to no wight may spede,
 And zit of every lyvis help has nede.

X.

The long dayes and the nyghtis eke,
 I wold bewaille my fortune in this wife,
 For quhich again distresse confort to seke,
 My custum was on mornis for to rise
 Airly as day, O happy exercise!
 By the come I to joye out of turment,
 Bot now to purpose of my first entent.

XI.

Bewailling in my chamber thus allone,
 Despeired of all joye and remedye,
 For-tirit of my thot and wo-begone,
 And to the wyndow gan I walk in hye,
 To see the world and folk y^t went forbye,
 As for the tyme though I of mirthis fude,
 My^t have no more, to luke it did me gude.

XII.

XII.

Now was there maid fast by the Touris wall
 A gardyn faire, and in the corneris fet,
 Ane herbere grene, with wandis long and small,
 Railit about, and so w^t treis fet
 Was all the place, and hawthorn hegis knet,
 That lyf was non walkyng there forbye,
 That myt w^tin scarce any wight aspye.

XIII.

So thick the beuis and the leves grene
 Beschadit all the allyes yt there were,
 And myddis every herbere myt be sene
 The scharp grene suete jenepere,
 Growing so fair w^t branchis here and there,
 That, as it semyt to a lyf w^tout,
 The bewis spred the herbere all about.

XIV.

And on the small grene twistis fat
 The lytil suete nyghtingale, and song
 So loud and clere, the ympnis consecrat
 Of luvis use, now soft now lowd among,
 That all the gardynis and the wallis rong
 Ry^t of thaire song, and on the copill next
 Of thaire suete armony, and lo the text.

B

Cantus

Cantus XV.

Worſchippe ze y^t loveris bene this May,
 For of zour bliſs the kalendis are begonne,
 And ſing w^t us, awāy winter away,
 Come ſomer come, the ſuete ſefon and ſonne,
 Awake, for ſchame! y^t have zour hevynis wonne,
 And amourolly liſt up zour hedis all,
 Thank luſe y^t liſt zou to his merci call.

XVI.

Quhen thai this ſong had ſong a littil thrawe,
 Thai ſtent a quhile, and therew^t unafraid,
 As I beheld, and keſt myn eyen a lawe,
 From beugh to beugh, thay hippit and thai plaid,
 And freſchly in thair birdis kynd araid,
 Thaire fatheris new, and fret thame in the ſonne,
 And thankit luſe, y^t had thair makis wonne.

XVII.

This was the plane ditie of thaire note,
 And therew^t all unto myſelf I tho^t,
 Quhat luſe is this, that makis birdis dote?
 Quhat may this be, how cummyth it of ought?
 Quhat nedith it to be ſo dere ybought?
 It is nothing, trowe I, bot feynit chere,
 i And that one liſt to counterfeten chere.

XVIII.

XVIII.

Eft wold I think, O Lord, quhat may this be?

That lufe is of fo noble myt and kynde,
Lufing his folk, and fuich prosperitee

Is it of him, as we in bukis fynd,
May he oure hertis fetten and unbynd:

Hath he upon our hertis fuich maiftrye?

Or all this is bot feynit fantaſye?

XIX.

For giff he be of fo grete excellence,

That he of every wight hath cure and charge,
Quhat have I gilt to him, or doon offense?

That I am thrall, and birdis gone at large,
Sen him to ſerve he myt ſet my corage,

And, gif he be not ſo, than may I feyne

Quhat makis folk to jangill of him in veyne?

XX.

Can I not ellis fynd bot giff yt he

Be lord, and, as a god, may lyve and regne,
To bynd, and louſe, and maken thrallis free,

Than wold I pray his bliſful grace benigne,
To hable me unto his ſervice digne,

And evermore for to be one of tho

Him trewly for to ſerve in wele and wo.

XXI.

And therew^t kest I doun myn eye ageyne,
 Quhare as I saw walkyng under the Toure,
 Full secretely, new cumyn hir to pleyne,
 The fairest or the freschest zoung floure
 That ever I sawe, methot, before that houre,
 For quhich sodayne abate, anon astert,
 The blude of all my body to my hert.

XXII.

And though I stood abaisit tho a lyte,
 No wonder was; for quhy? my wittis all
 Were so ouercome w^t plesance and delyte,
 Only through latting of myn eyen fall,
 That sudaynly my hert become hir thrall,
 For ever of free wyll, for of manace
 There was no takyn in hir suete face.

XXIII.

And in my hede I drew ry^t hastily,
 And eft sones I lent it out ageyne,
 And saw hir walk that verray womanly,
 With no wight mo, bot only women tueyne,
 Than gan I study in myself and seyne,
 Ah! suete are ze a worldly creature,
 Or hevingly thing in likeneffe of nature?

XXIV.

XXIV.

Or ar ze god Cupidis owin princeffe?
 And cumyn are to louse me out of band,
 Or are ze veray Nature the goddesse,
 That have depayntit w^t zour hevinly hand,
 This gardyn full of flouris, as they stand?
 Quhat fall I think, allace! quhat reverence
 Sall I mester to zour excellence?

XXV.

Giff ze a goddesse be, and yt ze like
 To do me payne, I may it not astert;
 Giff ze be warldly wight, yt dooth me fike,
 Quhy lest God mak zou so my dereft hert,
 To do a fely prifoner thus smert,
 That lufis zou all, and wote of not but wo,
 And, therefore, merci fuede! fen it is fo.

XXVI.

Quhen I a lytill thrawe had maid my mone,
 Bewailing myn infortune and my chance,
 Unknawin how or quhat was best to done,
 So ferre I fallying into lufis dance,
 That fodeynly my wit, my contenance,
 My hert, my will, my nature, and my mynd,
 Was changit clene ry^t in ane other kind.

B 3

XXVII.

XXVII.

Of hir array the form gif I sal write,
 Toward her goldin haire, and rich atyre,
 In fretwise couchit w^t perlis quhite,
 And grete & balas lemyng as the fyre,
 W^t mony ane emerant and faire saphire,
 And on hir hede a chaplet fresch of hewe,
 Of plumys partit rede, and quhite, and blewe.

XXVIII.

Full of quaking spangis bryt as gold,
 Forgit of schap like to the / amorettis,
 So new, so fresch, so pleasant to behold,
 The plumys eke like to the floure jonettis,
 And other of schap, like to the floure jonettis;
 And, above all this, there was, wele I wote,
 Beautee eneuch to mak a world to dote.

XXIX.

About hir neck, quhite as the fyre amaille,
 A gudelie cheyne of small orfeverye,
 Quhare by there hang a ruby, w^tout faille
 Like to ane hert schapin verily,
 That, as a sperk of lowe so wantonly
 Semyt birnyng upon hir quhite throte,
 Now gif there was gud pertye, God it wote.

XXX.

XXX.

And for to walk that fresche Mayes morowe,
 Ane huke she had upon her tiffew quhite,
 That gudeliare had not bene sene to forowe,
 As I suppose, and girt sche was alyte;
 Thus halflyng lowfe for haste, to fuich delyte,
 It was to see her zouth in gudelihed,
 That for rudenes to speke thereof I drede.

XXXI.

In hir was zouth, beautee, w^t humble aport,
 Bountee, richeffe, and womanly faiture,
 God better wote than my pen can report,
 Wisdome, largeffe estate, and conyng fure
 In every point, so guydit hir mesure,
 In word, in dede, in schap, in contenance,
 That nature my^t no more hir childe auance.

XXXII.

Throw quhich anon I knew and understude
 Wele y^t sche was a warldly creature,
 On quhom to rest myn eye, so mich gude
 It did my woful hert, I zow assure
 That it was to me joye w^tout mesure,
 And, at the last, my luke unto the hevin
 I threwe furthwith, and said thir versis sevin:

XXXIII.

XXXIII.

O Venus clere ! of goddis stellifyit,
 To quhom I zelde homage and sacrifise,
 Fro this day forth zour grace be magnifyit,
 That me reffaut have in such wise,
 To lyve under zour law and so seruise ;
 Now help me furth, and for zour merci lede
 My hert to rest, yt deis nere for drede.

XXXIV.

Quhen I wt gude entent this orison
 Thus endit had, I stynt a lytill stound,
 And eft myn eye full pitoufly adoun
 I keft, behalding unto hir lytill hound,
 That wt his bellis playit on the ground,
 Than wold I say, and sigh therewt a lyte,
 Ah ! wele were him yt now were in thy plyte !

XXXV.

An othir quhile the lytill nyghtingale,
 That sat upon the twiggis, wold I chide,
 And say ryt thus, Quhare are thy notis smale,
 That thou of love has song this morowe tyde ?
 Seis thou not hir yt fittis the besyde ?
 Ffor Venus' fake, the blisfull goddesse clere,
 Sing on agane, and mak my Lady chere.

XXXVI.

XXXVI.

And eke I pray, for all the paynes grete,
 That, for the love of Proigne, thy sifter dere,
 Thou sufferit quhilom, quhen thy brestis wete
 Were with the teres of thyne eyen clere,
 All bludy ronne yt pitee was to here,
 The crueltee of that unknytly dede,
 Quhare was fro the bereft thy maidenhede.

XXXVII.

Lift up thyne hert, and sing wt gude entent,
 And in thy notis suete the treson telle,
 That to thy sifter trewe and innocent,
 Was kythit by hir husband false and fell,
 Ffor quhois gilt, as it is worthy well,
 Chide thir husbandis yt are false, I say,
 And bid them mend in the m XX deuil way.

XXXVIII.

O lytill wreich, allace ! maist thou not se
 Quho comyth zond ? Is it now time to wring ?
 Quhat sory thot is fallin upon the ?
 Opyn thy throte ; hastow no left to sing ?
 Allace ! sen thou of refon had felyng,
 Now, swete bird say ones to me pepe,
 I dee for wo ; me think thou gynis flepe.

XXXIX.

XXXIX.

Hastow no mynde of lufe? quhare is thy make?
 Or artow feke, or smyt w^t jeloufye?
 Or is sche dede, or hath sche the forsake?
 Quhat is the cause of thy melancolye,
 That thou no more list maken melodye?
 Sluggart, for schame! lo here thy golden houre
 That worth were hale all thy lyvis laboure.

XL.

Gif thou fuld sing wele ever in thy lyve,
 Here is, in fay, the time, and eke the space:
 Quhat wostow then? Sum bird may cum and stryve
 In song w^t the, the maistry to purchase.
 Suld thou than cesse, it were great schame allace,
 And here to wyn gree happily for ever;
 Here is the tyme to syng, or ellis never.

XLI.

I thot eke thus gif I my handis clap,
 Or gif I cast, than will sche flee away;
 And, gif I hald my pes, than will sche nap;
 And gif I crye, sche wate not quhat I say:
 Thus quhat is best, wate I not be this day,
 Bot blawe wynd, blawe, and do the leuis schake,
 That sum tuig may wag, and make hir to wake.

XLII.

XLII.

With that anon ryt sche toke up a fang,
 Quhare com anon mo birdis and alight;
 Bot than to here the mirth was tham amang,
 Ouer that to see the fuede ficht
 Of hyr ymage, my spirit was so light,
 Methot I flawe for joye w^tout areft,
 So were my wittis bound in all to feft.

XLIII.

And to the nottis of the philomene,
 Quhilkis sche fang the ditee there I maid
 Direct to hir y^t was my hertis quene,
 Withoutin quhom no songis may be glade,
 And to that sanct walking in the schade,
 My bedis thus with humble hert entere,
 Deuotly I faid on this manere.

XLIV.

Quhen fall zour merci rew upon zour man,
 Quhois seruice is yet uncouth unto zow,
 Sen quhen ze go, there is not ellis than,
 Bot hert quhere as the body may not throu
 Folow thy hevin, quho fuld be glad bot thou,
 That fuch a gyde to folow has undertake,
 Were it throu hell, the way thou not forsake.

XLV.

XLV.

And, efter this, the birdis everichone
 Tuke up ane other sang full loud and clere,
 And w^t a voce said, Well is vs begone,
 That with our makis are togider here;
 We proyne and play w^tout dout and dangere,
 All clothit in a foyte full fresch and newe,
 In luffis service besy, glad, and trewe.

XLVI.

And ze fresch May, ay mercifull to bridis,
 Now welcum be, ze floure of monethis all,
 Ffor not onely zour grace upon us bydis,
 Bot all the warld to witnes this we call,
 That strowit hath so plainly over all,
 W^t new fresch fuete and tender grene,
 Our lyf, our lust, our governoure, our quene.

XLVII.

This was their sang, as semyt me full heye,
 W^t full mony uncouth fwete note and schill,
 And therew^t all that faire vpward hir eye
 Wold cast amang, as it was Goddis will,
 Quhare I might se, standing alone full still,
 The faire faiture y^t nature, for maistrye,
 In hir visage wrot had full lufingly.

XLVIII.

XLVIII.

And, quhen sche walkit, had a lytill thrawe
 Under the suete grene bewis bent,
 Hir faire fresch face, as quhite as any snawe,
 Sche turnyt has, and furth her wayis went;
 Bot tho began myn axis and turment,
 To sene hir part, and folowe I na myt,
 Methot the day was turnyt into nyt.

XLIX.

Than said I thus, Quharto lyve I langer?
 Wofullest wicht, and subject unto peyne:
 Of peyne? no: God wote ze, for thay no stranger
 May wirken ony wight, I dare wele seyne.
 How may this be, yt deth and lyf both tueyne?
 Sall bothe atonis, in a creature
 Togidder dwell, and turment thus nature?

L.

I may not ellis done, bot wepe and waile
 Within thir cald wallis thus ylokin:
 From hensfurth my rest is my travaile;
 My drye thirst with teris fall I flokin,
 And on my self bene all my harmys wrokin:
 Thus bute is none; bot Venus, of hir grace,
 Will schape remede, or do my spirit pace.

LIX.

As Tantalus I travaile, ay buteles
 That ever ylike hailith at the well
 Water to draw, wt buket bottemless,
 And may not spede, quhois penance is ane hell;
 So by myself this tale I may well telle,
 For unto hir yt herith not I pleyne,
 Thus like to him my travaile is in veyne.

LII.

So fore thus fighit I wt myself allone,
 That turnyt is my strength in febilnesse,
 My wele in wo, my frendis all in fone,
 My lyf in deth, my lyt into dirkness,
 My hope in feere, in dout my sekirnesse;
 Sen sche is gone, and God mote hir conuoye,
 That me may gyde fro turment and to joye.

LIII.

The long day thus gan I pryde and poure,
 Till Phebus endit had his bemes bryt,
 And bad go farewele every lef and floure,
 This is to say, approch gan the nyt,
 And Esperus his lampis gan to light,
 Quhen in the wyndow, still as any stone,
 I bade at lenth, and, kneeling, maid my mone.

LIV.

LIV.

So lang till evin for lak of my^t and mynd,
 Ffor-wepit and for-pleynit piteously,
 Ourset so forrow had bothe hert and mynd,
 That to the cold stone my hede on wrye
 I laid, and lenit, amaisit verily!
 Half-sleeping and half-suoun, in such a wise,
 And quhat I met I will zou now deuise.

C 2

The

IV
 Metho^{us} thus all fodeynly a lyt,
 In at the wyndow came quhare at I lent,
 Of quhich the chambers wyndow schone full bryt,
 And all my body fo it half oucrwent,
 That of my sight the verew hale I blent,
 And that wt all a yock unto me lent,
 I bring the comfort and hele, be not assent.

II.

And forth unto it passit fodeynly,
 Quhare it came in, the ry^e way agayne,
 And sent metho^{us} forth at the dure to hye,
 I went my weye, was nothing me agayne,
 And hastily, by betwix the armes twayne,
 I was araisit up into the ayre,
 Clippit in a cloude of crysall clere and faire.

C 2

III.

LIV.

So lang till evin for lak of myt and mynd,
 For-wepit and for-pleynit piteously,
 Oure to sorrow had bothe hert and mynd,
 That to the cold stone my hede on wyte
 I laid, and leuit, amysit verily!
 Half-sleeping and half-wake, in such a wyse,
 And what I met I will now deale.

The

C

So long till evin for lak of myt and mynd,
 That to the cold stone my hede on wyte
 I laid, and leuit, amysit verily!
 Half-sleeping and half-wake, in such a wyse,
 And what I met I will now deale.

LIII.

The long day this year I pass and pence,
 Till Phoebe can't but be my brye,
 And had go forward every day and pence,
 This is to say, approach for the nyte,
 And Esperus his lamp is in sight,
 When in the wyndow, still as any floye,
 I bode as leuit, and, kneeling, maid my praye.

LII.

KING'S QUAIR.

CANTO III.

THE POET IS TRANSPORTED TO THE SPHERE OF
LOVE.

I.

METHOT yt thus all fodeynly a lyt,
In at the wyndow come quhare at I lent,
Of quhich the chambere wyndow schone full bryt,
And all my body so it hath ouerwent,
That of my sight the vertew hale I blent,
And that wt all a voce unto me said,
I bring the comfort and hele, be not affrayde.

II.

And furth anon it passit fodeynly,
Quhere it come in, the ryt way ageyne,
And sone methot furth at the dure in hye
I went my weye, was nathing me ageyne,
And hastily, by bothe the armes tueyne,
I was araisit up into the aire,
Clippit in a cloude of crystall clere and faire.

III.

Ascending vpward ay fro spere to spere,
 Through aire and watere and the hote fyre,
 Till y^t I come vnto the circle clere,
 Off signifere quhare fair bry^t and fchere,
 The signis fchone, and in the glad empire
 Off blifsful Venus ane cryit now
 So fudaynly, almost I wist not how.

IV.

Off quhich the *n* place, quhen I com there nye,
 Was all metho^t of chrystal stonis wro^t,
 And to the port I listit was in hye,
 Quhare fodaynly, as quho fais at a tho^t,
 It opnyt, and I was anon inbro^t
 W^tin a chamber, large rowm and faire,
 And there I fand of people grete repaire.

V.

This is to feyne, y^t present in that place,
 Metho^t I saw of every nacion
 Loueris y^t endit thaire lyfis space
 In lovis service, mony a mylion
 Of quhois chancis maid is mencion
 In diuerse bukis quho thame list to fe,
 And therefore here thaire namys lat I be.

VI.

VI.

The quhois aventure and grete laboure
 Abone their hedis writen there I fand,
 This is to feyne martris, and confessoure,
 Ech in his stage, and his make in his hand;
 And therew^t all thir peple sawe I stand,
 W^t mony a solempt contenance,
 After as lufe thame lykit to auance.

VII.

Off gude folkis y^t faire in lufe befell,
 There saw I sitt in order by thame *one*
 W^t *bedis hore*, and w^t thame stude *gude will*
 To talk and play, and after that anon
 Befyde thame, and next there saw I gone
Curage, amang the fresche folkis zong,
 And w^t thame playit full merily, and song.

VIII.

And in ane other stage, endlong the wall,
 There saw I stand in capis wyde and la n
 A full grete nowmer, but thaire hudis all
 Wist I not why, atoure thair eyen hang,
 And ay to thame come *Repentance* amang,
 And maid thame chere degysit in his wede,
 And downward efter that zit I tuke hede.

IX.

IX.

Ryt ouer thwert the chamber was there drawe
 A trevesse thin and quhite, all of plesance,
 The quhich behynd standing there, I sawe
 A world of folk, and by thaire contenance
 Thair hertis semyt full of displeance,
 Wt billis in thaire handis of one assent,
 Vnto the judge thaire playntis to present.

X.

And there wtall apperit vnto me
 A voce, and said, Tak hede, man, and behold:
 Zonder there thou feis the hiest stage and gree
 Of agit folk, wt hedis hore and olde;
 Zone were the folk yt never change wold
 In lufe, but trewly servit him alway,
 In every age, vnto thaire ending day.

XI.

For fro the time yt thai could vnderstand
 The exercise of lufis craft, the cure
 Was non on lyve yt toke so much on hand
 For lufis sake, nor langer did endure
 In lufis service; for, man, I the assure,
 Quhen thay of zouth reffavit had the fill,
 Zit in thaire age thame lakkit no gude will.

XII.

XII.

Here bene also of suich as in counsailis,
 And all thare dedis were to Venus trewe,
 Here bene the Princis faucht the grete batailis,
 In mynd of quhom ar maid the bukis newe;
 Here bene the poetis yt the sciencis knewe,
 Throwout the world, of lufe in thair suete layes,
 Such as Ovide and Omere in thair dayes.

XIII.

And efter thame down in the next stage,
 There, as thou seis, the zong folkis pleye:
 Lo! these were thay that, in thaire myddill age,
 Servandis were to lufe in mony weye,
 And diversely happenit for to deye,
 Sum sorrowfully for wanting of thaire makis,
 And sum in armes for thaire ladyes fakis.

XIV.

And other eke by other diuerse chance,
 As happin folk all day, as ze may se;
 Sum for dispaire, w^tout recoverance;
 Sum for defyre, surmounting thaire degree;
 Sum for dispite, and other inmytee;
 Sum for vnkyndness, w^tout a quhy;
 Sum for to mock, and sum for jelousye.

XV.

XV.

And efter this, vpon zone stage doun,
 Tho y^t thou seis stand in capis wyde;
 Zone were quhilum folk of religion,
 That from the world thaire governance did hide,
 And frely servit lufe on every syde,
 In secet w^t thaire bodyis and thaire gudis,
 And lo! quhy so, thai hingen doun thair hudis.

XVI.

For though y^t thai were hardy at assay,
 And did him service quhilum prively,
 Zit to the warldis eye it semyt nay,
 So was thaire service half cowardly,
 And for thay first forfuke him opynly,
 And efter that thereof had repenting,
 For schame thaire hudis oure thaire eyen they hyng.

XVII.

And seis thou now zone multitude on rawe,
 Standing behynd zone traveffe of delyte,
 Sum bene of thame y^t haldin were full lawe,
 And take by frendis, nothing thay to wyte,
 In zouth from lufe, into the cloistere quite,
 And for that cause are cummyn recounfilit,
 On thame to pleyne y^t so thame had begilit.

XVIII.

XVIII.

And othir bene amongis thame also,
 That cummyn are to court on lufe to pleyne,
 For he thair bodyes had bestouit so,
 Quhare bothe thaire hertes gruch there ageyne,
 For quhich in all thaire dayes soth to feyne,
 Quhen other lyvit in joye and plesance,
 Thaire lyf was no^t bot care and repentance.

XIX.

And quhare thaire hertis gevin were and fet,
 Were copilt w^t other y^t could not accord;
 Thus were thai wranged y^t did no forfet,
 Departing thame y^t never wold discord,
 Off zong ladies faire, and mony lord,
 That thus by maistry were fro thaire chose dryve,
 Full ready were thaire playntis there to gyve.

XX.

And other also I sawe compleynyng there
 Vpon fortune and hir grete variance,
 That quhere in love so well they coplit were
 W^t thair suete makis coplit in plesance,
 So sodeynly maid thair disseverance,
 And tuke thame of this warldis companye,
 W^toutin cause there was non other quhy:

XXI.

XXI.

And in a chiere of estate besyde,
W^t wingis bright, all plumyt, bot his face,
 There sawe I sitt the blynd god *Cupide*
W^t bow in hand y^t bent full redy was,
 And by him hang thre arowis in a case,
 Off quhich the hedis grundyn were full ryt,
 Off diverse metalis forgit fair and bryt.

XXII.

And w^t the first y^t hedit is of gold,
 He smytis soft, and that has esy cure;
 The secund was of silver, mony fold,
 Wers than the first, and harder aventure;
 The third of stele is schot w^tout recure;
 And on his long zallow lokkis schene,
 A chaplet had he all of levis grene.

XXIII.

And in a rētrete lytill of compas,
 Depeyntit all w^t fighis wonder sad,
 Not suich fighis as hertis doith manace,
 Bot suich as dooth lufaris to be glad,
 Fond I *Venus* vpon hir bed, y^t had
 A mantill cast ouer hir schuldris quhite:
 Thus clothit was the goddesse of delyte.

XXIV.

XXIV.

Stude at the dure *Fair calling* hir vschere,
 That coude his office doon in conyng wise,
 And *Secrete* hir thrifty chamberere,
 That besy was in tyme to do seruise,
 And othir moyt I cannot on avise;
 And on hir hede of rede rosis full suete,
 A chapellet sche had, faire, fresch, and mete.

XXV.

W^t quaking hert astonate of that sight,
 Unethis wist I, quhat y^t I suld feyne,
 Bot at the last febily as I my^t,
 W^t my handis on bothe my kneis tueyne,
 There I begouth my caris to compleyne,
 W^t ane humble and lamentable chere
 Thus salute I that goddes bry^t and clere.

XXVI.

Hye Quene of Lufe! sterre of benevolence!
 Pitouse princeffe, and planet merciabile!
 Appesare of malice and violence!
 By vertew pure of zour aspectis hable,
 Vnto zour grace lat now bene acceptable
 My pure request, y^t can no forthir gone
 To seken help, bot vnto zow allone!

D

XXVII.

XXVII.

As ze y^t bene the focoure and fuede well
 Off remedye, of carefull hertes cure,
 And in the huge weltering wavis fell
 Off lufis rage, blifsfull havin, and fure,
 O anker and treue, of oure gude aventure,
 Ze have zour man w^t his gude will conquest,
 Merci, therefore, and bring his hert to rest!

XXVIII.

Ze knaw the cause of all my peynes smert
 Bet than myself, and all myn auenture
 Ze may conueye, and, as zow list, conuert
 The hardest hert y^t formyt hath nature,
 Sen in zour handis all hale lyith my cure,
 Have pitee now, O bry^t blifsfull goddesse,
 Off zour pure man, and rew on his distresse!

XXIX.

And though I was vnto zour lawis strange,
 By ignorance, and not by felonye,
 And y^t zour grace now likit hath to change
 My hert, to seruen zou perpetualye,
 Forgiue all this, and schapith remedye,
 To fauen me of zour benigne grace,
 Or do me steruen furthw^t in this place.

XXX.

XXX.

And w^t the stremes of zour percyng ly^t,
 Conuoy my hert, y^t is so wo-begone,
 Ageyne vnto that fuede hevinly fight,
 That I, within thir wallis cald as stone
 So fuetly saw on morow walk, and gone,
 Law in the gardyn ry^t tofore mine eye,
 Now, merci, Quene! and do me not to deye.

XXXI.

Thir wordis said, my spirit in dispaire
 A quhile I stynt, abiding efter grace,
 And therew^t all hir cristall eyen faire
 She kest asyde, and efter that a space,
 Benignely sche turnyt has hir face
 Towardis me full plesantly conueide,
 And vnto me ry^t in this uise sche seide:

XXXII.

Zong man, the cause of all thyne inward sorowe
 Is not vnknawin to my deite,
 And thy request bothe nowe and eke to forowe,
 Quhen thou first maid profession to me,
 Sen of my grace I have inspirit the
 To knawe my lawe, contynew furth, for oft,
 There as I mynt full sore, I smyte bot soft.

D 2

XXXIII.

XXXIII.

Paciently thou tak thyne auenture,
 This will my son Cupide, and so will I,
 He can the stroke, to me langis the cure
 Quhen I se tyme, and therefore truely
 Abyde, and serue, and lat gude hope the gye,
 Bot for I have thy forchede here pent,
 I will the schewe the more of myn entent.

XXXIV.

This is to say, though it to me pertene
 In lufis lawe the septre to governe,
 That the effectis of my bemes schene
 Has thair aspectis by ordynance eterne,
 W^t otheris bynd and mynes to discerne,
 Quhilum in thingis bothe to cum and gone,
 That langis not to me to writh, God allone.

XXXV.

As in thyne awin case now may thou se,
 For quhy, lo y^t otheris influence,
 Thy persone standis not in libertee;
 Quharfore, though I geve the benevolence,
 It standis not zit in myn advertence,
 Till certeyne course endit be and ronne,
 Quhill of trew feruis thow have hir I-wonne.

XXXVI.

XXXVI.

And zit, confidering the nakitneffe
 Bothe of thy wit, thy perfone, and thy my^t,
 It is no match, of thyne vnworthineffe
 To hir hie birth, estate, and beautee bry^t,
 Als like ze bene, as day is to the ny^t,
 Or sek-cloth is unto fyne cremesye,
 Or doken to the frefche dayesye.

XXXVII.

Vnlike the mone is to the sonne fchene,
 Eke Januarye is like vnto May,
 Vnlike the cukkow to the phylomene;
 o Thaire tavartis are not bothe maid of aray,
 Vnlike the crow is to the papejay,
 Vnlike, in goldfmythis werk, a fischis eye
 To purcrefs w^t peril, or maked be fo heye.

XXXVIII.

As I have faid, vnto me belangith
 Specially the cure of thy sekneffe,
 Bot now thy matere fo in balance hangith,
 That it requireth, to thy fekerneffe,
 The help of other mo than one goddesse,
 And have in thame the menes and the lore,
 In this mater to fchorten w^t thy fore.

XXXIX.

And for thou fall se wele y^t I entend,
 Vnto thy help thy welefare to preferue,
 The streight weye thy spirit will I send
 To the goddeffe y^t clepit is *Mynerve*,
 And se y^t thou hir heftis well conserue,
 For in this case sche may be thy supplie,
 And put thy hert in rest als well as I.

XL.

Bot for the way is vncouth vnto the,
 There as hir dwelling is, and hir sojurne,
 I will y^t *gud hope* seruand to the be,
 Zoure alleris frende, to let the to murn,
 Be thy condyt and gyde till thou returne,
 And hir besech, y^t sche will in thy nede
 Hir counselle geve to thy welefare and spede.

XLI.

And y^t sche will, as langith hir office,
 Be thy gude lady, help and counseiloure,
 And to the schewe hir rype and gude auise,
 Throw quhich thou may be proceffe and laboure,
 Atteyne vnto that glad and goldyn floure,
 That thou wald have so fayn w^t all thy hart,
 And forthirmore sen thou hir fervand art.

XLII.

XLII.

Quhen thou descendis doun to ground ageyne,
 Say to the men, y^t there bene resident,
 How long think thay to stand in my disdeyne,
 That in my lawis bene so negligent,
 From day to day, and list thame not repent,
 Bot breken louse and walken at thaire large,
 Is none y^t thereof gevis charge.

XVIII.

And for, q^d fche, the angir and the smert
 Of thair vnkyndenesse dooth me constreyne
 My femynyne and wofull tender hert,
 That than I wepe, and to a token pleyne,
 As of my teris cummyth all this reyne,
 That ze se on the ground so fast yvete,
 Fro day to day, my turment is so grete.

XLIV.

And quhen I wepe, and stynten othir quhile
 For pacience y^t is in womanhede,
 Than all my wrath and rancoure I exile,
 And of my cristall teris y^t bene shede,
 The hony flouris growen vp and sprede,
 That preyen me in thaire flouris wife,
 Be trewe of lufe, and worship my seruice.

XLV.

XLV.

And eke, in taken of this pitouſe tale,
 Quhen ſo my teris dropen on the ground,
 In thaire nature the lytill birdis ſmale
 Styntith thair ſong, and murnyth for that ſound,
 And all the lightis in the hevin round
 Off my greuance have ſuch compaciencce,
 That from the ground they hiden thaire preſence.

XLVI.

And zit in tokenyng forthir of this thing,
 Quhen flouris ſpringis and freſcheſts bene of hewe,
 And y^t the birdis on the twiſtis ſing,
 At thilke tyme ay gynen folk to renewe,
 That ſeruis vnto loue, as ay is dewe,
 Moſt qmonly has ay his obſeruance.
 And of thaire ſleuth tofore have repentance.

XLVII.

Thus maiſt thou ſeyne y^t myn effectis grete,
 Vnto the quhich ze aught and maiſt weye,
 No lyte offeſſe to ſleuth is forget,
 And therefore in this wiſe to thame ſeye,
 As I the here have bid, and conueye
 The matere all the better tofore ſaid,
 Thus fall on the my charge bene laid.

XLVIII.

XLVIII.

Say on than, Quhare is becummyne for schame
 The songis new, the fresch carolis and dance,
 The lusty lyf, the mony change of game,
 The fresche aray, the lusty contenance,
 The besy awayte, the hertly obseruance
 That quhilum was amongis thame so ryf,
 Bid thame repent in tyme, and mend thaire lyf.

XLIX.

Or I fall, with my fader old Saturne,
 And w^t alhale oure hevinly alliance,
 Oure glad aspectis from thame writhe and turne,
 That all the world fall waile thaire governance,
 Bid thame betyme, y^t thai haue repentance,
 And thaire hertis hale renew my lawe,
 And I my hand fro beting fall w^tdrawe.

L.

This is to say, contynew in my seruise,
 Worschip my law, and my name magnifye,
 That am zour hevin and zour paradise,
 And I zour confort here fall multiplie,
 And, for zoure meryt here perpetualye,
 Reffaue I fall zour faulis of my grace,
 To lyve w^t me as goddis in this place.

The

XIV.

day on than, Ours is becoming for John
 The tonight new, the first carols and chimes,
 The busy life, the many change of years,
 The first day, the busy contentment,
 The busy away, the busy contentment,
 That passion was among the things to life,
 Bid them repent in time, and mend their life.

XV.

Or I fall, with my father's name,
 And so, while our hearts are shining,
 Our glad spirit from them with the end time,
 That all the world shall with their governance,
 Bid them repent, and have repentance,
 And their hearts shall know my law,
 And I may stand to bring all to drive.

XVI.

This is to say, in my heart, in my heart,
 Working my law, and my name magnified,
 That am your heart and your paradise,
 And I your heart, and all my heart,
 And, for your heart, and my heart,
 Because I fall, and all my heart,
 To live with me, and all my heart,
 The

KING's QUAIR.

CANTO IV.

HE IS CONDUCTED TO THE PALACE OF MINERVA.

I.

W^T Humble thank, and all the reverence
 That feble wit and conyng may atteyne,
 I take my leve; and from hir prefence
Gude Hope and I togider both tueyne
 Departit are, and schortly for to feyne
 He hath me led redy wayis ry^t
 Vnto *Minerve's Palace*, faire and bry^t.

II.

Quhare as I fand, full redy at the zate,
 The *maister portare*, callit *Paciencie*,
 That frely lete vs in, vnquestionate,
 And there we sawe the perfyt excellence,
 The said renewe, the state, the reuerence,
 The strenth, the beautee, and the ordour digne,
 Off hir court-riall, noble and benigne.

III.

III.

And straught vnto the presence sodeynly
 Off dame Minerue, the pacient goddesse,
 Gude Hope my gyde led me redily,
 To quhom anon, w^t dredefull humylness
 Off my cummyng, the cause I gan expresse,
 And all the processe hole, vnto the end,
 Off Venus charge, as likit her to fend.

IV.

Off quhich ry^t thus hir ansuere was in bref:
 My son, I have wele herd, and vnderstond,
 Be thy reherse, the mater of thy gref,
 And thy request to procure, and to fond
 Off thy penance sum confort at my hond,
 Be counsele of thy lady Venus clere,
 To be with hir thyne help in this matere.

V.

Bot in this case thou fall well knawe and witt,
 Thou may thy hert ground on suich a wise,
 That thy laboure will be bot lytill quit,
 And thou may set it in otherwise,
 That wil be to the grete worschip and prife;
 And gif thou durst vnto that way enclyne,
 I will the geve my lore and discipline.

VI.

VI.

Lo, my gude son, this is als much to feyne,
 As gif thy lufe be fet alluterly
 Of nyce lust, thy travail is in veyne,
 And so the end fall turne of thy folye,
 To payne and repentance, lo wate thou quhy?
 Gif the ne list on lufe thy *vertew* set,
Vertu fall be the cause of thy forfet.

VII.

Tak him before in all thy gouernance,
 That in his hand the stere has of zou all,
 And pray vnto his hye purveyance,
 Thy lufe to gye, and on him traist and call,
 That corner-stone, and ground is of the wall,
 That failis not, and trust, w^toutin drede,
 Vnto thy purpose sone he fall the lede.

VIII.

For lo, the werk y^t first is foundit sure,
 May better bere apace and hyare be,
 Than otherwise and langere fall endure,
 Be mony fald, this may thy reson see,
 And stronger to defend aduersitee;
 Ground thy werk, therefore, upon the stone,
 And thy desire fall forthward w^t the gone.

E

IX.

IX.

Be trewe, and meke, and stedfast in thy tho^t,
 And diligent her merci to procure,
 Not onely in thy word, for word is no^t,
 Bot gif thy werk and all thy besy cure
 Accord thereto, and vtrid be mesure,
 The place, the houre, the maner, and the wise,
 Gif mercy fall admitten thy servise.

X.

All thing has tyme, thus sais *Ecclesiaste*;
 And wele is him y^t his tyme will abit:
 Abyde thy tyme; for he y^t can bot haste
 Can not of hap, the wise man it writ;
 And oft gud fortune flourith w^t gude wit:
 Quharefore, gif thou will be well fortunyt,
 Lat wisdom ay to thy will be junyt.

XI.

Bot there be mony of so brukill fort,
 That feynis treuth in lufe for a quhile,
 And setten all thaire wittis and disport,
 The sely innocent woman to begyle;
 And so to wynne thaire lustis w^t a wile;
 Suich feynit treuth is all bot trechorye,
 Vnder the vmbre of ypocrisye.

XII.

XII.

For as the foulere quhifflith in his throte,
 Diuerfely to counterfete the brid,
 And feynis mony a fuede and ftrange note,
 That in the bufk for his defate is hid,
 Till fche be faft lok in his net amyde,
 Ry^t fo the fatoure, the falfe theif, I fay,
 W^t fuede treafon oft wynith thus his pray.

XIII.

Fy on all fuch ! fy on thaire doubilneffe !
 Fy on thaire luft, and beftly appetite !
 Thaire wolfis hertis, in lambis likneffe ;
 Thaire thoughtis blak, hid vnder wordis quhite :
 Fy on thaire labour ! fy on thaire delyte !
 That feynen outward all to hir honour,
 And in thair hert her worship wold depour.

XIV.

So hard it is to truften now on dayes
 The warld, it is fo double and inconstant,
 Off quhich the futh is hid be mony affayes ;
 More pitee is ; for quhich the remanant
 That menen well, and are not variant,
 For otheris gilt are fufpect of vntreuth,
 And hyndrit oft, and treuely that is reuth,

XV.

Bot, gif the hert be groundit ferm and stable
 In Goddis law, thy purpose to atteyne,
 Thy labour is to me agreable,
 And my full help w^t counsele trew and pleyne,
 I will the schewe, and this is the certeyne;
 Opyn thy hert, therefore, and lat me see
 Gif thy remede be pertynent to me.

XVI.

Madame, q^d I, sen it is zour plesance
 That I declare the kynd of my loving,
 Treuely and gude, w^toutin variance,
I lufe that flour abuse all other thing,
 And wold, bene he, y^t to hir worschipping
 My^t ought availe, be *him p y^t starf on rude*,
 And nowthir spare for trauaile, lyf, nor gude.

XVII.

And, forthirmore, as touching the nature
 Off my lusing, to worschip or to blame,
 I darre wele say, and therein me assure,
 For ony gold y^t ony wight can name,
 Wald I be he y^t fuld of hir gude fame
 Be blamischere in ony point or wyse,
 For wele nor wo, quhill my lyf may suffise.

XVIII.

XVIII.

This is the effect trewly of myn entent,
 Touching the fuede y^t smertis me so fore,
 Giff this be faynt, I can it not repent,
 Allthough my lyf fuld forfaut be therefore:
 Blisfull princeffe! I can feye zou no more,
 Bot so desire, my wittis dooth compace
 More joy in erth, kepe I no^t bot zour grace.

XIX.

Desire, q^d sche, I nyl it not deny,
 So thou it ground and set in cristin wife;
 And therefore, son, opyn thy hert playnly.
 Madame, q^d I, trew w^toutin fantise,
 That day fall I neuer vp rise,
 For my delyte to couate the plesance
 That may hir worfchip putten in balance.

XX.

For our all thing, lo this were my gladnesse,
 To sene the fresche beautee of hir face;
 And gif it my^t deserue be proceffe,
 For my grete lufe and treuth to stond in grace,
 Hir worfchip fauf; lo here the blisfull caee
 That I wold ask, and thereto attend,
 For my most joye vnto my lysis end.

E. 3. XXI.

XXI.

Now wele, q^d fche, and fen y^t it is so,
 That in vertew thy lufe is fet w^t treuth,
 To helpen the I will be one of tho
 From hensforth, and hertly without sleuth,
 Off thy distresse and exceffe to have reuth,
 That has thy hert, I will pray full faire,
 That fortune be no more thereto contraire.

XXII.

For suth it is y^t all ze creatures,
 Quhich vnder vs beneth have zour dwellyng,
 Ressauen diuerfely zour auenturis,
 Off quhich the cure and principal melling
 Apperit is w^toutin repellyng,
 Onely to hir y^t has the cuttis two
 In hand, both of zour wele and of your wo.

XXIII.

And how so be, y^t sum clerkis trete,
 That zour chance caufit is tofore,
 Heigh in the hevin, by quhois effectis grete,
 Ze movit are to wrething less or more,
 Quhare in the warld, thus calling y^t therefore,
 Fortune, and so y^t the diversitee
 Off thaire werking fuld cause necessitee.

XXIV.

XXIV.

Bot other clerkis halden that the man,
 Has in himself the chofe and libertee
 To cause his awin fortune, how, or quhan,
 That him best lest, and no necessitee
 Was in the hevin at his nativitee;
 Bot zit the thingis happin in qmune,
 Efter purpose, so cleping thame fortune.

XXV.

And quhare a persone has tofore knawing
 Off it yt is to fall purposely,
 Lo fortune is bot wayke in such a thing,
 Thou may wele wit, and here ensample quhy,
 To *God* it is the first cause onely
 Off euery thing, there may no fortune fall,
 And quhy? for *he* foreknawin is of all.

XXVI.

And therefore thus I say to this sentence,
 Fortune is most and strangest euermore,
 Quhare, leste foreknawing or intelligence
 Is in the man, and *sone* of wit or lore,
 Sen thou art wayke and feble, lo, therefore,
 The more thou art in dangere, and qmune
 Wt hir, yt clerkis clepen so *fortune*.

XXVII.

XXVII.

Bot for the sake, and at the reuerence
 Off Venus clere, as I the said tofore,
 I have of thy distresse compaciencie,
 And in confort and relefche of thy fore,
 The schewit here myn avise therefore,
 Pray fortune help; for suich vnlikely thing
 Full oft about sche sodeynly dooth bring.

XXVIII.

Now go thy way, and haue gude mynd upon
 Quhat I have said, in way of thy doctryne:
 I fall, Madame, q^d I, and ry^t anon
 I tuke my leve, als straught as ony lyne
 Within a beme, y^t fro the contree dyvine,
 Sche Percyng throw the firmament extendit,
 To ground ageyne my spirit is descendit.

The

KING's QUAIR.

CANTO V.

HIS JOURNEY IN QUEST OF FORTUNE.

I.

QUHARE in a lusty plane tuke I my way,
 Endlang a ryuer, plesand to behold,
 Enbroudin all wt fresche flouris gay,
 Quhare throu the grauel, bryt as ony gold,
 The cristal water ran so clere and cold,
 That in myn ere, maid contynualy,
 A maner foun mellit with armony.

II.

That full of lytill fischis by the brym,
 Now here now there, wt bakkis blewe as lede,
 Lap and playit, and in a rout can fwym
 So prattily, and drestit thame to sprede
 Thaire curall fynis, as the ruby rede,
 That, in the sonne on thaire scalis bryt,
 As *q* gesserant ay glitterit in my sight.

III.

III.

And by this ilke ryuer fyde alawe
 Ane hyeway fand I like to bene,
 On quhich, on euery fyde, a long rawe
 Off trees saw I full of levis grene,
 That full of fruyte delitable were to sene;
 And also, as it come vnto my mynd,
 Of bestis sawe I mony diuerse kynd.

IV.

The lyon king and his fere lyoness,
 The pantere like vnto the smaragdyne,
 The lytill squerell full of besynesse,
 The flawe asse, the druggare beste of pyne,
 The nyce ape, the werely porpapyne,
 The percyng lynx, the lufare vnicorn,
 That voidis venym with his euoure horne.

V.

There sawe I dresse him, new out of hant,
 The fere tigere full of felony,
 The dromydare, the stander oliphant,
 The wyly fox, the wedouis inemye,
 The clymbare gayte, the elk for alblaftrye,
 The herknere bore, the holsum grey for hortis,
 The haire also, yt oft gooth to the hortis.

VI.

VI.

The bugill draware by his hornis grete,
 The martrik fable, the foynzee, and mony mo,
 The chalk quhite ermyn, tippit as the jete,
 The riall hert, the conyng, and the ro,
 The wolf, yt of the murthir not say ho,
 The lefty beuer, and the ravin bare,
 For chamelot, the camel full of hare.

VII.

With many ane othir beste diuerse and strange,
 That cummyth not as now vnto my mynd;
 Bot now to purpose straught furth the range,
 I held away oure hailing in my mynd,
 From quhens I come, and quhare yt I suld fynd
Fortune, the goddesse unto quhom in hye
Gude hope, my gyde, has led me sodeynly.

VIII.

And at the last behalding thus asyde,
 A round place wallit have I found,
 In myddis quhare eftfone I have spide
Fortune, the goddesse, hufing on the ground,
 And ryt befor hir fete, of compas round,
 A *qubele*, on quhich clevering I fye,
 A multitude of folk before myn eye.

IX.

IX.

And ane furcote sche werit long that tyde,
 That femyt to me of diuerse hewis,
 Quhilum thus, quhen sche wald turn asyde,
 Stude this goddeſs of fortune u^e,
 A chapellet w^t mony freſch anewis
 Sche had upon hir hede, and w^t this hong
 A mantill on hir ſchuldries large and long.

X.

That furrit was w^t ermyn full quhite,
 * Degoütit w^t the ſelf in ſpottis blake,
 And quhilum in hir chere thus alyte
 Louring ſche was, and thus ſone it wold ſlake,
 And ſodeynly a maner ſmylyng make
 And ſche were glad, at one contenance
 Sche held not, bot ay in variance.

XI.

And vnderneath the quhele ſawe I there
 And vgly pit, depe as ony helle,
 That to behald thereon I quoke for fere;
 Bot a thing herd I, y^t quho therein fell,
 Com no more vp agane tidingis to telle;
 Off quhich, aſtonait of that ferefull ſyt,
 I ne wiſt quhat to done, ſo was I fricht.

XII.

XII.

Bot for to se the sodayn weltering
 Of that ilk quhele y^t floppare was to hold,
 It femyt vnto my wit a strong thing,
 So mony I sawe y^t than clumben wold,
 And failit foting, and to ground were rold,
 And othir eke y^t sat above on hye,
 Were overthrawe in twinklyng of ane eye.

XIII.

And on the quhele was lytill void space,
 Wele nere oure fraught fro lawe to hye,
 And they were ware y^t long sat in place,
 So tolter quhilum did sche it to wreye,
 There was bot clymbe and ry^t downward hye,
 And sum were eke y^t fallyng had fore,
 There for to clymbe, thair corage was no more.

XIV.

I sawe also, y^t quhere sum were flungin,
 Be quhirlyng of the quhele vnto the ground,
 Full sodaynly sche hath vp ythrungin,
 And set theme on agane full fauf and found,
 And ever I sawe a new swarm abound,
 That to clymbe vpward upon the quhele,
 Insteade of thame y^t my^t no langer rele.

F

XV.

XV.

And at the last, in presence of thame all
 That stude about, sche clepit me be name,
 And therew^t upon kneis gan I fall
 Full sodaynly hailfing, abaisf for schame;
 And, smylyng thus, sche said to me in game,
 Quhat dois thou here? quho has the hider sent?
 Say on anon, and tell me thyne entent.

XVI.

I fe wele, by thy chere and contenance,
 There is sum thing y^t lyis the on hert,
 It stant not w^t the as thou wald perchance.
 Madame, q^d I, for lufe is all the smert
 That euer I fele endlang and ouerthwert;
 Help of zour grace me wofull wrechet wight,
 Sen me to cure ze powere have and my^t.

XVII.

Quhat help, q^d sche, wold thou y^t I ordeyne,
 To bring the vnto thy hertis desire?
 Madame, q^d I, bot y^t zour grace dedyne,
 Of zour grete my^t, my wittis to inspire,
 To win the *well*, y^t flokin may the fyre
 In quhich I birn: Ah, goddeffs fortunate!
 Help now my game y^t is in poynt to mate.

XVIII.

XVIII.

Off mate q^d sche, a verray fely wretch
 I se wele, by thy dedely coloure pale,
 Thou art to feble of thyself to streche
 Vpon my quhele, to clymbe or to hale,
 W^toutin help, for thou has fund in stale
 This mony day w^toutin werdis wele,
 And wantis now thy veray hertis hele.

XIX.

Wele maistow be a wretchit man callit,
 That wantis the confort y^t suld thy hert glade,
 And has all thing within thy hert stallit,
 That may thy zouth oppressen or defade;
 Though thy begynng hath bene retrograde,
 Be froward opposyt quhare till aspert,
 Now fall thai turn, and luke on the dert.

XX.

And therew^t all vnto the quhele in hye
 Sche hath me led, and bad me lere to clymbe,
 Vpon the quhich I steppit sudaynly;
 Now hald thy grippis, q^d sche, for thy tyme,
 An houre and more it rynis ouer x prime
 To count the hole the half is nere away;
 Spend wele, therefore, the remanant of the day.

XXI.

Ensample (qd sche) tak of this tofore,
 That fro my quhele be rollit as a ball,
 For the nature of it is euermore
 After an hicht to vale, and geve a fall,
 Thus quhen me likith vp or down to fall.
 Farewele, qd sche, and by the ere me toke
 So earnestly, y^t therew^t all I woke.

XIX.

END OF THE VISION.

The

XX.

And therew^t all vnto the quhele in hys
 Sche bath me led, and bad me lere to clymbe,
 Vpon the quhele I keppe iudicary;
 Now hald thy grippe, qd sche, for thy tyme;
 An houre and more it tynis ouer a prime
 To count the hole the hyl is bere away;
 Spend welc, therfore, the remnant of the day.
 XX

K I N G ' s Q U A I R.

C A N T O VI.

I.

O BESY goſte, ay ſlikering to and fro,
 That never art in quiet nor in reſt,
 Till thou cum to that place y^t thou cam fro,
 Quhich is thy firſt and verray proper neſt;
 From day to day ſo fore here artow dreſt,
 That w^t thy fleſche ay walking art in trouble,
 And ſleeping eke of pyne, ſo has thou double

II.

Couert myſelf all this mene I to loke,
 Thought y^t my ſpirit vexit was tofore,
 In ſuenyng, aſſone as ever I woke,
 By XX fold it was in trouble more,
 Be thinking me w^t fighting hert and fore,
 That nane other thingis bot dremes had,
 Nor ſekernes my ſpirit w^t to glad.

III.

And therew^t sone I drestit me to ryse,
 Fulild of tho^t, pyne, and aduersitee,
 And to myself I said in this wise,
 Quhat lyf is this? quhare hath my spirit be?
 A! merci, Lord! quhat will ze do w^t me?
 Is this of my foretho^t impressioun?
 Or is it from the hevin a visioun?

IV.

And gif ze goddis of zoure purviance
 Have schewit this for my reconforting,
 In relefche of my furiose penance,
 I zow beseke full truely of this thing,
 That of zour grace I my^t have more takenyng,
 Gif it sal be, as in my slepe before
 Ze schewit have: and forth w^toutin more,

V.

In hye vnto the wyndow gan I walk,
 Moving within my spirit of this fight,
 Quhare sodeynly a *turture*, *qubite as calk*,
 So evinly vpon my hand gan ly^t,
 And vnto me sche turnyt hir, full ry^t,
 Off quham the chere in hir birdis affort
 Gave me in hert kalendis of confort.

VI.

VI.

This fair bird ry^t in hir bill gan hold
 Of *red jeroffleris*, with thair *stalkis grene*,
 A fair branche, quhare *written* was *with gold*,
 On eury lese, wicht branchis bry^t and schene,
 In compas fair full plesandly to sene,
 A *plane sentence*, quhich, as I can deuise
 And have in mynd, said ry^t on this wise.

VII.

Awak! awake! I bring lufar, I bring
 The newis glad, that blisfull ben and sure
 Of thy confort; now lauch, and play, and sing,
 That art besid so glad an auenture:
 Fore in the hevyn decretit is ye cure:
 And vnto me the flouris fair did present;
 With wyngis spred hir wayis furth sche went.

VIII.

Quhilk vp anon I tuke, and as I gesse,
 Ane hundreth tymes, or I forthir went,
 I have it red, with hertfull glaidnesse,
 And half with hope and half w^t dred it hent,
 And at my beddis hed, with gude entent,
 I have it fair pynit vp, and this
 First takyn was of all my help and blisse.

IX.

IX.

The quhich treuly efter day be day,
 That all my wittis maistrit had tofore,
 Quhich he offerth, the paynis did away,
 And schorly so wele fortune has hir bore,
 To q^mkin treuly day by day, my lore
 To my larges, that I am cum agayn
 To blisse with hir that is my foverane.

E P I L O G U E.

X.

Bot for als moche as sum micht think or feyne,
 Quhat nedis me, apoun so lytill evyn,
 To writt all this? I anfuere thus ageyne;
 Quho that from hell war y coppin onys in hevin,
 Wald efter thank for joy, mak VI. or VII.;
 And euery wicht his awin suete or fore,
 Has maist in mynde, I can say zou no more.

XI.

Eke quho may in this lyfe have more plesance,
 Than cum to largesse from thraldom and peyne?
 And by the mene of Inffis ordinance,
 That has so mony in his golden cheyne,
 Quhich this to wyn his hertis souereyne,
 Quho fuld me wite to write tharof, lat se;
 Now sufficiance is my felicitee.

XII.

XII.

Befeeching vnto fair Venus abuse,
 For all my brethir y^t bene in this place,
 This is to feyne yat fernandis ar to lufe,
 And of his lady can no thank purchase,
 His pane relefch, and fone to ftand in grace,
 Both to his worfchip and to his firft efe,
 So that it hir and refoun not difpleafe.

XIII.

And eke for thame yat ar not entrit inne
 The dance of lyfe, bot thither-wart on way,
 In gude tyme and fely to begynne.
 For thame y^t paffit bene the mony affray,
 Thair prentiffhed, and forthirmore I pray
 In lufe, and cumyng ar to full plesance,
 To graunt thame all, lo gude perfeuerance.

XIV.

And eke I pray for all the hertis dull,
 That lyven here in fleuth and ignorance,
 And has no curage at the rofe to pull,
 Thair lyf to mend and thair faulis auance,
 With thair fuede lore, and bring thame to gude chance,
 And quho that will not for this prayer turn,
 Quhen thai wald fayneft fpeid, y^t yai may fpuirn.

XV.

XV.

To rekyn of every thing the circumstance,
 As happint me quhen lefferen gan my fore,
 Of my rancoure and wofull chance,
 It war to long, I lat it be tharefore,
 And thus *this floure*, I can seye no more,
 So hertly has vnto my help ascendit,
 ⁊ That from the deth hir man sche has defendit.

XVI.

And eke the goddis mercifull virking,
 For my long pane, and trew service in lufe,
 That has me gevin halely myne asking,
 Quhich has my hert for ever set abuse
 In perfyte joye, that never may remuse,
 Bot onely deth, of quhom in land and prife,
 With thankfull hert I say richt in this wise.

XVII.

Blissit mot be the goddis all,
 So fair that glateren in the firmament!
 And blissit be thaire my^e celestiall,
 That have conuoyit hale with one assent,
 My lufe, and to glade a consequent!
 And thankit be fortunys exiltre,
 And quhele, that thus so wele has quhirлит me.

XVIII.

XVIII.

Thankit mot be, and fair and lufe befall
 The nyctingale, yat with so gud entent
 Sang thare of lufe, the notis suete and small,
 Quhair my fair hertis lady was present,
 Hir with to glad, or that sche forthir went;
 And thou gerafloure, mot I-thankit be
 All other flouris for ye lufe of ye.

XIX.

And thankit be ye fair castell wall,
 Quhare as I quhilom lukit furth and lent,
 Thankit mot be the sanctis merciall,
 That me first caufit hath this accident:
 Thankit mot be the grene bewis bent,
 Throu quhom and vnder first fortunyt me,
 My hertis hele and my confort to be.

XX.

For to the presence suete and delitable,
 Rycht of *this floure* yat full is of plesance,
 By processe and by menys favourable,
 First of ye blisful goddis purveyance,
 And syne throu long and trewe contynance
 Of veray faith in lufe and trew service,
 I cum am, and forthir in this wise.

XXI.

XXI.

Vnworthy lo bot onely of hir grace,
 In lufis rok, that esy is and sure,
 In guerdoun of all my lufis space
 Sche hath me tak, hir humble creature,
 And thus befell my blifsfull auenture,
 In zouth of lufe, that now from day to day
 Flourith ay newe, and zit forther I say.

XXII.

Go litill tretise, nakit of eloquence,
 Causing simplefs and pouertee to wit,
 And pray the reder to have paciencie
 Of thy defaute, and to supporten it,
 Of his gudnesse thy brukilnesse to knytt,
 And his tong for to ruelē and to stere,
 That thy defaultis helit may bene here.

XXIII.

Allace! and gif thou cumyft in ye prefence,
 Quhare as of blame faynest thou wald be quite,
 To here thy rude and crukit eloquens,
 Quho fal be there to pray for thy remyt?
 No wicht bot gif hir merci will admyt
 The for gud will, that is thy gyd and stere,
 To quham for me thou piteoufely requere.

XXIV.

XXIV.

And thus endith the fatall influence,
 Caufit from hevyn quhare powar is comytt,
 Of govirnance, by the magnificence
 Of him that hiest in the hevin fitt.
aa To quham we think that all oure hath writt,
 Quho coutht it red agone fyne mony a zere,
 Hich in the hevynis figure circulere.

XXV.

Vnto impnis of my maisteris dere,
Gowere and *Chaucere*, that on the steppis satt
 Of rethorike, quhill thai were lyvand here,
 Superlatiue as poetis laureate,
 In moralitee and eloquence ornate,
 I recommend my buk in lynis seven,
 And eke thair faulis vnto the blisse of hevin.

A M E N!

EXPLICIT, ZIC. ZIC.

Quod Jacobus Primus Scotorum Rex Illustrissimus.

G

NOTES

XXIV

And thus ending the first and last
Cause from beyond the power of
Of governance, by the assistance
Of him that shall in the future
As to govern we think that our
Who could it be that we have
Which in the history of the

XXV

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A M. E. D.

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* N O T E S

O N T H E

K I N G ' s Q U A I R .

C A N T O I.

Stanza 1. * *Cytherea*.) This is probably an error of the transcriber of the Seldenian M. S. instead of *Cynthia*, agreeable to line 6th, *Heved hir hornis bright*.

S. 3. b *Boeee*) Boethius or Boetius (FLAVIUS ANICIUS MANLIUS TORQUATUS SEVERINUS), a prose as well as poetical writer of the sixth century, born of one of the noblest families in Rome. His father dying when he was an infant, he was sent to Athens, where he not only attained to a perfect knowledge of the Greek tongue, but also of philosophy, and all other kinds of science. Returning to Rome, he soon became universally esteemed, and was advanced to the chief dignities of his country. In 1523, having remonstrated with great spirit against the conduct of Theodoric, who began every day to exert new instances of tyranny, he fell under his resentment; and soon after was

G 2

accused

* *These notes are principally extracted (by permission) from The Poetical Remains of King James I. published by William Tytler Esq. of Woodhouselee, to which valuable work we beg leave to recommend those who wish more critically to examine this Poem.*

accused of having carried on a conspiracy with the emperor Justin against the Goths. Theodoric brought the cause before the senate, where the accusers producing suborned evidence, who exhibited forged letters to Justin in the name of Boethius, though absent, unheard, undefended, he was condemned to death : but the king, fearing the consequence of such injustice and inhumanity, changed his sentence from death to banishment. He was banished to Milan, or (as others say) confined to Ticinum, now Pavia; and all his friends forbidden to accompany him on his way, or to follow him thither. During his exile, he writ his books of "The Consolation of Philosophy," and that upon "The Trinity." The year following, or somewhat later, according to some writers, he was beheaded in prison by the command of Theodoric. The tomb of Boethius is to be seen in the church of St Augustine at Pavia, near to the steps of the chancel, with the following epitaph ;

Mæonia & Latia lingua clarissimus, & qui

Consul eram, hic perii, missus in exilium.

Et quid mors rapuit? Probitas me vexit ad auras;

Et nunc fama viget maxima, vivit opus.

Boethius wrote many philosophical works, the greater part in the logical way : but his Ethic piece, "De consolatione Philosophiæ," is his chief performance, and has always been justly admired both for the matter and for the style. It is a supposed conference between the author and philosophy, who as a person endeavours to comfort him; and is partly prose and partly verse. It was Englished by our Chaucer; and Cambden tells us, that queen Elizabeth, after having read it to mitigate grief, translated it also into

to very elegant English. A writer of distinction observed, that "with Boethius the Latin tongue, and the last remains of Roman dignity, may be said to have sunk in the western world." The best edition of his works is that of Leyden, 1671, in 8vo.

S. 4. c *poetly.*) Instead of *Poetical Report*.

S. 13. d *And maid a +.*) Made the sign of the Holy Cross, or invoked the Divine Benediction on his Work.

S. 19. e *Thesiphone.*) Another error in the transcriber. *Thesiphone*, one of the furies, for *Terpsichore*, one of the nine muses.

C A N T O II.

S. 1. f *Synthius.*) When the Sun enters Aries, about the middle of March.

S. 3. g *Not far passit, &c.*) A vague manner of expressing his age. Three years past the age of innocence, or nine, makes him at this time about twelve, agreeable to the generality of Historians, though none of them expressly mention the year of his birth.

S. 17. h *And that one list, &c.*) An obscure passage; perhaps *one list* for *me list*, or inclines me to counterfeit *chere* or *mirth*.

S. 27. i *Balas lemyng as the fire.*) Precious stones, sparkling as fire.

S. 28. k *Amorettis.*) Made in the form of a love knot or garland.

S. 37. l *XX deuil way.*) Obscure; perhaps the sense is to bid such cruel husbands repent, by mourning twenty-fold for their crimes; from the French *deuil*, sorrow.

S. 44. m *Rew upon.*) have pity upon.—The remainder of

this stanza is obscure—probably, the sense is as follows: “When my mistress is gone, there remains only my body, but *or without* my heart.” Then addressing his heart, “follow then thy heaven, and be glad to follow such a guide, and forsake not the way she leads you.” A licence of transposition and sometimes omission, is not uncommon, not only in this poem, but in Chaucer, Gavin Douglas, &c.

CANTO III.

S. 4. n *Place.*)

S. 37. o *Thair tavartis.*) A short coat made without sleeves, worn only in time of war, and hence called ‘*tavart of array.*’

CANTO IV.

S. 16. p *Be him y^t starf on rude.*) That died on the cross.

CANTO V.

S. 2. q *As gesserant.*) Like some precious stone sparkled in my eye.

S. 4. r *Smaragdyne.*) Supposed to be an emerald.

Ib. s *Wisely porpapyne.*) Or warlike porcupine, armed with Quills.

Ib. t *Lufare unicorn.*) If such an animal exists, the quality of ejecting poison from its ivory horn, (on which account it gets the epithet of *lufare*) is now unknown.

S. 9. u *Stude this goddess of fortune* ☿.) Perhaps this may mean *askew*.

S. 10. * *Degoût it.*) The M. S. has *degoût it* from the French word, *i. e.* spotted.

S. 20. x *Ane hour ouer prime.*) In ancient times, the hours were divided into two parts, according to the times of devotion.

votion. From six to nine in the morning was called the hour of prime, or *spatium orationum primarum*.

C A N T O VI.

S. 10. y *War coppin in heaven.*) Were raised from hell to the top of blifs in heaven.

S. 15. z *That from the deth hir man sche has defendit.*) For a specimen of Mr Tytler's ingenious notes on this beautiful poem, we take the liberty of inserting the following completely :

“ To one that looks for prefages, this line will perhaps call his attention to a circumstance mentioned by the historians, of this virtuous and most affectionate princess's receiving two wounds, in attempting to defend the king from his inhuman murtherers !

“ Having struck down the King, whom the Queen, by interposing her body, fought to save, being with difficulty pulled from him, she received two wounds, and he with twenty-eight was left dead !”—HAWTHORNDEN.

It was said by Æneas Sylvius, afterwards Pope Eugene IV. who was in Scotland as Legate, at the time, that he was at a loss which most to applaud, the universal grief which overspread the nation, on the death of the King, or the resentment to which it was roused, and the just vengeance with which his inhuman murtherers were pursued ; who being all of them traced, and dragged from their lurking retreats, were, by the most lingering tortures that human invention could suggest, put to death. The Earl of Athole, whose ambition had incited him to conspire the King's death, after suffering three days torture, crowned with

with a red hot coronet of iron, with the inscription "KING OF TRAITORS!" was beheaded, and his quarters sent to the chief cities of the kingdom.

S. 24. a *To quham, &c.*) The sense of this Stanza seems to be, that all he had writ was *couthit* or known ages before in heaven.

INTRODUCTION

CHRISTIS KIRK OF THE GRENE.

By JAMES I.

KING OF SCOTLAND.

CHRISTIE'S KIRK OF THE GREEN.

BY JAMES A.

KING OF SCOTLAND.

INTRODUCTION.

THIS fine Old Poem is well known, having undergone several Editions both in England and Scotland. It may be esteemed the first Poem of the Ludicrous or Burlesque kind, in the Island, notwithstanding that this species of Poetical writing has been commonly attributed to the Invention of the Moderns.

IT abounds with Wit, Humour, and delicate Irony, and is highly descriptive of the manners of the Country in the beginning of the 15th century.

SOME late Writers have ascribed this Poem to King James V. Mr Tytler in his Critical Dissertation on the Life and Writings of King James I. has proved it to be the composition of this last Prince.

THE

THE King's design in this Poem, appears to have been, by the force of Ridicule, to induce his subjects to the practice of Archery, which had fallen into disuse by their neglect of the Bow, during his 19 years captivity in England. As this was one object of much importance to the State, James on his return to Scotland, enforced this matter by a solemn Act in his First Parliament.

THE Poem is here given from the Edinburgh Edition 1783, in which the Editor has strictly followed Banantyn's Manuscript 1568, which is preserved in the Advocates Library at Edinburgh.—As for the Explanatory Notes on this Poem we must refer to the above Edition 1783.

CHRISTIS KIRK OF THE GRENE.

I.

WES nevir in *Scotland* hard nor sene
Sic danfing nor deray,

Nouthir at *Falkland* on the Grene,

Nor *Pebillis* at the Play ;

As wes of wowaris, as I wene,

At *Christis Kirk* on ane day :

Thair came our kitties, weschen clene,

In thair new kirtillis of gray,

Full gay,

At *Christis Kirk* of the Grene that day.

II.

To dans thir damyfellis thame dicht,

Thir lasses licht of laitiss,

Thair gluvis war of the raffel rycht,

Thair shune wer of the straitis,

Thair kirtillis wer of *Lynkome* licht,

Weil preft with mony plaitis,

H

Thay

Thay wer sa nyfs quhen men thame nicht,
Thay squelit lyke ony gaitis,
Sa loud,
At Christis Kirk, &c.

III.

Of all thir madynis, myld as meid,
Wes nane sa jympt as *Gillie*,
As ony rose hir rude wes reid,
Hir lyre wes lyke the lillie:
Fow zellow zellow wes hir heid,
Bot scho of lufe wes fillie;
Tho^t all hir kin had sworn hir deid,
Scho wald haif bot *sweet Willie*
Alane,
At Christis Kirk, &c.

IV.

Scho skornit *Jok*, and skrapit at him,
And murgeonit him with mokkis,
He wald haif lusit, scho wald not lat him,
For all his zellow lokkis,
He chereist hir, scho bad gae chat him,
Scho compt him not twa clokkis,
Sa schamefully his schort gown fet him,
His lymis wer lyk two rokkis,
Scho said,
At Christis Kirk, &c.

V.

V.

Tam Lutar wes thair menstral meit,

O Lord, as he could lanfs!

He playit sa schill, and sang sa fweir,

Quhile *Tousy* tuke a tranfs,

Auld *Lightfute* thair he did forleit,

And counterfuttet *Franfs*;

He used himself as man discreit,

And up tuke *Moreis* danfs

Full loud,

At Christis Kirk, &c.

VI.

Then *Steven* cam steppand in with stendis,

Na rynk mycht him arreist;

Platefute he bobit up with bendis

For *Mald* he made requiest,

He lap quhill he lay on his lendis,

But ryfand he wes priest,

Quhill that he oist at bayth endis,

For honour of the feist

That day,

At Christis Kirk, &c.

VII.

Syne *Robene Roy* begouth to revell,

And *Downy* till him druggit;

H 2

Let

Let be, quo *fo*k, and caw'd him javell,
 And be the taill him tuggit,
 The kenfy cleikit to the cavell,
 Bot, lord, than how thay luggit!
 Thay partit manly with a nevell,
 God wait gif hair was ruggit

Betwix thame

At Christis Kirk, &c.

VIII.

Ane bent a bow, sic sturt coud steir him,
 Grit skayth wes'd to haif skard him,
 He cheset a flane as did affeir him,
 The toder said *dirdum dardum*!
 Throw baith the cheikis he thocht to cheir him,
 Or throw the ers heif chard him,
 Bot be ane *aikerbraid* it cam not *neir* him,
 I can nocht tell quhat marr'd him

Thair,

At Christis Kirk, &c.

IX.

With that a freynd of his cry'd, fy!
 And up ane arrow drew,
 He forgit it sa furiously,
 The bow in flenderis flew;
 Sa wes the will of God, trow I,
 For had the tre bene trew,

Men

Men said, that kend his archery,
That he had flane enow

That day,
At Christis Kirk, &c.

X.

An hasty henfure, callit *Hary*,
Quha wes ane archer heynd,
Tilt up a taikle withouten tary,
That torment sa him teynd;
I wait not quhider his hand could vary,
Or the man was his freynd,
For he eschapit, throw michts of Mary,
As man that na ill meynd,

But gude,
At Christis Kirk, &c.

XI.

Then *Lowry* as ane lyon lap,
And sone a flane can feddir,
He hecht to pers him at the pap,
Theron to wed a weddir,
He hit him on the *wame* a wap,
It *bust* lyk ony bledder;
But sua his fortune was and hap,
His doublit wes maid of ledder,

And saift him
At Christis Kirk, &c.

XII.

The buff so boisterously abaist him,
 That he to the eard dusht doun,
 The uther man for deid then left him,
 And fled out o' the toune;
 The wyves came furth, and up they reft him,
 And fand lyfe in the lounie,
 Then with three routis up they reft him,
 And cur'd him of his foune
 Fra hand that day,
 At Christis Kirk, &c.

XIII.

A yaip young man, that stude him neist,
 Lous'd aff a schott with yre,
 He ettlit the bern in at the breist,
 The bolt flew ou'r the byre,
 Ane cry'd fy! he had slane a priest
 A myle beyond ane myre;
 Then bow and bag fra him he keist,
 And fled as feris as fyre

Of flint,

At Christis Kirk, &c.

XIV.

With forks and flails they lent grit flappis,
 And slang togidder lyk friggis,

With

With bougars of barnis thay beft blew kappis,
 Quhyle thay of bernis maid briggis;
 The reird rais rudely with the rapps,
 Quhen rungis wer layd on riggis,
 The wyffis cam furth with cryis and clappis,
 Lo quhair my lyking ligs,

Quo thay,

At Christis Kirk, &c.

XV.

Thay gyrnit and lait gird with grainis,
 Ilk goffip uder grievit,
 Sum strak with stings, sum gatherit stainis,
 Sum fled and ill mischevit;
 The *menstral* wan within twa wainis,
 That day full weil he previt,
 For he cam hame with unbirst bainis,
 Quhair fechtaris wer mischievit

For evir,

At Christis Kirk, &c.

XVI.

Heich *Hutcheon* with a hiffil ryfs,
 To red can throw thame rummill,
 He muddlit thame doun lyk ony myfs,
 He wes na baity bummil;
 Thoch he wes wight, he wes nocht wyfs
 With sic jangleurs to jummil,

For

For fra his thowme thay dang a sklyfs,
 Quhile he cryed *barlafummil*,
 I am flane,
 At Christis Kirk, &c.

XVII.

Quhen that he saw his blude sa reid,
 To fle might na man let him,
 He weind it bene for auld done feid,
 He thocht ane cryed, haif at him!
 He gart his *feit* defend his *beid*,
 The far fairer it fet him,
 Quhyle he wes past out of all pleid,
 He fuld bene swift that gat him
 Throw speid,
 At Christis Kirk, &c.

XVIII.

The *town souter* in grief wes bowdin,
 His wyfe hang in his waist,
 His body wes with blud all browdin,
 He grainit lyk ony gaisf;
 Hir glitterand hair that wes full gowdin,
 Sa hard in lufe him laist,
 That for hir sake he wes na yowdin
 Seven myle that he wes chaist,
 And mair,
 At Christis Kirk, &c.

XIX.

XIX.

The millar wes of manly mak,
 To meit him wes na mowis,
 Thai durst not ten cum him to tak,
 Sa nowitit he thair powis;
 The buschment haill about him brak,
 And bickert him with bows,
 Syn traytourly behind his back
 They hewit him on the howifs

Behind,

At Christis Kirk, &c.

XX.

Twa that wer *herdsmen* of the herd,
 Ran upon udderis lyk rammis,
 Than followit feymen richt unaffeird,
 Bet on with barrow trammis,
 But quhair thair gobbis wer ungeird,
 Thay gat upon the gammis,
 Quhyle bludy berkit wes their baird,
 As thay had worriet lammis

Maist lyk,

At Christis Kirk, &c.

XXI.

The *wyves* kest up a hideous yell,
 When all thir younkeris yokkit,

Als

Als ferfs as ony fyre flaughts fell,
 Freiks to the field thay flokit;
 The carlis with clubbis coud udir quell,
 Quhyle blude at breiftis out bokkit,
 Sa rudely rang the common bell,
 Quhyll all the steipill rokit

For reid,
 At Christis Kirk, &c.

XXII.

Quhyn thay had berit lyk baitit bullis,
 And branewod brynt in bails,
 Thay wer als meik as ony mulis
 That mangit wer with mailis;
 For faintnefs tha forfochtin fulis
 Fell doun lyk flauchtir failis,
 And fresch men cam in and hail'd the dulis,
 And dang tham doun in dailis,

Bedene,
 At Christis Kirk, &c.

XXIII.

Quhen all wes done, *Dik* with ane aix
 Cam furth to fell a fuddir,
 Quod he, quhair ar yon hangit smaix,
 Rycht now wald flane my bruder:
 His wyf bad him ga hame, Gib glaiks,
 And sa did *Meg* his muder,

He

He turnit and gaif them bayth thair paikis,
For he durst ding nane udir,
For feir,
At Chrifteis Kirk of the Grene that day.

F I N I S.

He turnit and gae them their paining
For he durst ding none o'er
The canis with aye, the canis
At Christie Kirk of the Green that day
Had downed the canis yestir
Quoth all the bairns

At Christie Kirk, &c.

XXII.

Quhen they had been lyk baillie mair,
And brewed brye in bair,
They wer als mair as law mair
That mair was with mair;
For mair the forefathir
Fell down lyk bairie mair,
And freck men cam to mair
And sang them down in mair,
Bedad.

At Christie Kirk, &c.

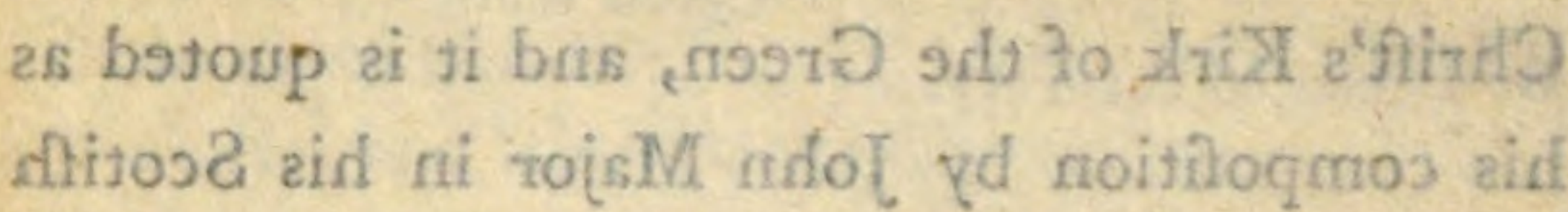
XXIII.

Quhen all was done, Dik with ane mair
Cam forth to sell a mair,
Quod he, quod he you hangit mair,
Bycht now wad have my bruder:
His wyf had him ga hame, Gae glasse,
And sa did Mair his mair.

INTRODUCTION.

PEBLIS TO THE PLAY.

PERLIS TO THE PLAY.



THE following old Poem, the composition of king James I. of Scotland, was discovered by Dr Percy, the Editor of the Reliques of Ancient English Poetry, and published in the Second Volume of a late Collection of Select Scottish Ballads, (by Mr Pinkerton) anno 1783.

I 2 THIS

THIS poem is alluded to by king James I. in the 4th line of first stanza, of his poem of Christ's Kirk of the Green, and it is quoted as his composition by John Major in his Scottish History. Major seems to hint that a parody had been made of this poem of the king's, for on the subject of some low intrigue in which he had been discovered, his words are——“*fu-*
 “*cundum artificiosum illum Cantum (composuit)*
 “*at Beltayn, &c. quam alii de Dalkeith et*
 “*Gargeil mutare studuerunt, quia in arce aut*
 “*camera clausus servabatur, in qua mulier cum*
 “*matre habitabat.*”

PEEBLES, the scene of the poem is the head town of the county of Tweeddale, situated on the banks of the river Tweed, in a pastoral country abounding with game, which made it often be resorted to by our ancient Scottish kings. The annual games of archery, and other pastimes at Peebles, appear to have been of very ancient institution.

PEBLIS TO THE PLAY.

AT beltane, quhen ilk bodie bownis
To Peblis to the Play,
To heir the singin and the foundis;
The solace, suth to say,
Be firth and forrest furth they found;
Thay graythit tham full gay;
God wait that wald they do that stound,
For it was thair feist day,

Thay said,

Of Peblis to the Play.

II.

All the wenchis of the west
War up or the cok crew;
For reiling thair micht na man rest,
For garray, and for glew:
Ane said my curches ar nocht preft;
Than answerit Meg full blew,

I 3

To

To get an hude, I hald it best ;

Be Goddis faull that is true,

Quod scho,

Of Peblis to the Play.

III.

She tuik the tippet be the end,

To lat it hing scho leit not ;

Quod he, thy bak fall beir ane bend ;

In faith, quod she, we meit not.

Scho was so guckit, and so gend,

That day ane byt scho eit nocht ;

Than spak hir fallowis that hir kend ;

Be still, my joy, and greit not

Now.

Of Peblis to the Play.

IV.

Evir allace ! than said scho,

Am I nocht cleirlye tynt ?

I dar nocht cum yon mercat to

I am so evvil sone-brint ;

Amang yon merchands my dudds do ?

Marie I fall anis mynt

Stand of far, and keik thaim to ;

As I at hame was wont,

Quod scho.

Of Peblis to the Play.

V.

V.

Hop, Calyé, and Cardronow
 Gaderit out thik-fald,
 With Hey and How rohumbelow ;
 The young folk were full bald.
 The bagpype blew, and thai out threw
 Out of the townis untald.
 Lord sic ane schout was thame amang,
 Quhen thai were our the wald

Thair west,

Of Peblis to the Play.

VI.

Ane young man stert in to that steid,
 Als cant as ony colt,
 Ane birkin hat upon his heid,
 With ane bow and ane bolt ;
 Said, Mirrie Madinis, think not lang ;
 The wedder is fair and smolt.
 He cleikit up ane hie ruf fang,
Thair fure ane man to the holt

Quod he.

Of Peblis to the Play.

VII.

Thay had nocht gane half of the gait
 Quhen the madinis come upon thame,

Ilkane

Ilk ane man gaif his confait,
 How at thai wald dispone thame :
 Ane said The fairest fallis me ;
 Tak ye the laif and fone thame.
 Ane uther said Wys me lat be.
 On, Twedell fyd, and on thame

Swyth,

Of Peblis to the Play.

VIII.

Than he to ga, and scho to ga,
 And never ane bad abyd you :
 Ane winklot fell and her taill up ;
 Wow, quod Malkin, hyd yow
 Quhat neidis you to maik it sua ?
 Yon man will not ourryd you.
 Ar ye owr gude, quod scho, I say,
 To lat thame gang besyd yow

Yonder,

Of Peblis to the Play ?

IX.

Than thai come to the townis end
 Withouttin more delai,
 He befoir, and scho befoir,
 To see quha was maist gay.
 All that luikit thame upon
 Leuche fast at thair array :

Sum

Sum said that thai were merkat folk ;
 Sum said the Quene of May

Was cumit
 Of Peblis to the Play.

X.

Than thai to the taverne hous
 With meikle oly prance ;
 Ane spak wi wourdis wonder crous
 A done with ane mischance !

Braid up the burde, (he hydis tyt)
 We ar all in ane trance ;
 Se that our napre be quhyt,
 For we will dyn and daunce,

Thair out,
 Of Peblis to the Play.

XI.

Ay as the gudwyf brocht in,
 Ane scorit upon the wauch.
 Ane bad pay, ane ither said, nay,
 Byd quhill we rakin our lauch.
 The gud wyf said, Have ye na dreid ?
 Ye fall pay at ye aucht.

Ane young man start upon his feit,
 And he began to lauche

For heydin,
 Of Peblis to the Play.

XII.

XII.

He gat ane trincheour in his hand,
 And he began to compt;
 Ilk man twa and ane happenie,
 To pay thus we war wount.
 Ane uther stert upon his feit,
 And said thow art our blunt
 To tak sik office upoun hand;
 Be God thow servite ane dunt

Of me,

Of Peblis to the Play.

XIII.

Ane dunt, quod he, quhat dewil is that?
 Be God yow dar not du'd.
 He stert till ane broggit stauf,
 Wincheand as he war woode.
 All that hous was in an reirde;
 Ane cryit, 'The halie rude!
 ' Help us lord upon this erde
 ' That thair be spilt na blude

Heirin,

' Of Peblis to the Play.'

XIV.

Thay thrang out at the dure at anis
 Withouttin ony reddin;

Gilbert

Gilbert in ane guttar glayde
 He gat na better beddin.
 Thair wes not ane of thame that day
 Wald do ane utheris biddin.
 Thairby lay thre and threttie sum,
 Thrunland in ane midding

Off draff.

Of Peblis to the Play.

XV.

Ane cadgear on the mercat gait
 Hard thame bargane begin;
 He gaiff ane schout, his wyff came out;
 Scantlie scho micht ourhye him:
 He held, scho drew, for dust that day
 Micht na man se ane styme

To red thame.

Of Peblis to the Play.

XVI.

He stert to his greit gray meir,
 And of he tumblit the creilis.
 Alace, quod scho, hald our gude man:
 And on hir knees scho knelis.
 Abyd, quod scho; why nay, quod he,
 In till his stirrapis he lap;

The

The girding brak, and he flew of,
And upstart bayth his heilis.

At anis,
Of Peblis to the Play.

XVII.

His wyf came out, and gaif ane fchout,
And be the fute fcho gat him;

All bedirtin drew him out;

Lord God! richt weil that fat him!

He said, Quhair is yon culroun knaif?

Quod fcho, I reid ye lat him

Gang hame his gaites. Be God, quod he,

I fall anis have at him

Yit.

Of Peblis to the Play.

XVIII.

Ye fylit me, fy for fchame! quod fcho:

Se as ye have drest me;

How feil ye, fchir, as my girdin brak

Quhat meikle devil may left me.

I wait weil quhat it wes

My awin gray meir that keft me:

Or gif I wes forfochtin faynt,

And fyn lay doun to rest me

Yonder,

Of Peblis to the Play.

XIX.

XIX.

Be that the bargan was all playit
 The stringis stert out of thair nokks;
 Sevin-sum that the tulye maid,
 Lay gruffling in the stokks.
 John Jakfoun of the nether warde
 Had lever have giffin an ox,
 Or he had cuming in that cumpanie,
 He sware be Goddis cokkis,

And mannis bayth,
 Of Peblis to the Play.

XX.

With that Will Swane come fueitand out,
 Ane meikle miller man;
 Gif I fall dance have donn lat se
 Blaw up the bagpyp than:
 The schamon's dance I mon begin;
 I trow it fall not pane.
 So hevelie he hockit about
 To se him, Lord, as thai ran

That tyd,
 Of Peblis to the Play!

XXI.

Thay gadderit out of the toun
 And neirar him thai dreuche;

K

Ane

Ane bade gif the daunfaris rowme,
 Will Swane makis wounder teuche.
 Than all the wenschis Te he thai playit;
 But, lord, as Will Young leuche!
 Gude gossip come hyn your gaitis,
 For we have daunfit aneuche

At anis

At Peblis at the Play.

XXII.

Sa ferllie'fyr heit wes the day
 His face began to frekill.
 Than Tisbe tuik him by the hand,
 (Wes new cuming fra the Seckill)
 Allace, quod scho, quhat fall I do?
 And our doure hes na ftekill.
 And scho to ga as hir taill brynt;
 And all the cairlis to kekill

At hir.

Of Peblis to the Play.

XXIII.

The pyper said now I begin
 To tyre for playing to;
 Bot yit I have gottin nathing
 For all my pypping to you;
 Thre happenis for half ane day
 And that will not undo you!

And

And gif ye will gif me richt nocht,
The meikill devill gang wi you,

Quod he,

Of Peblis to the Play.

XXIV.

Be that the daunfing wes all done,
Thair leif tuik les and mair;
Quhen the winklottis and the wawarris twynit
To se it was hart fair.

Wat Atkin said to fair Ales,
My bird now will I fayr:
The dewil a wourde that scho might speik,
Bet fwownit that sweit of fwair

For kyndnes.

Of Peblis to the Play.

XXV.

He fippilit lyk ane faderles fole;
' And be still my sweit thing.
' Be the halyrud of Peblis
' I may nocht rest for greting.'
He quhiffillit, and he pypit bayth,
To mak hir blyth that meiting:
My hony hart how sayis the fang,
' *Thair fall be mirth at our meting*
' *Yit.*'

Of Peblis to the Play.

K 2

XXVI.

XXVI.

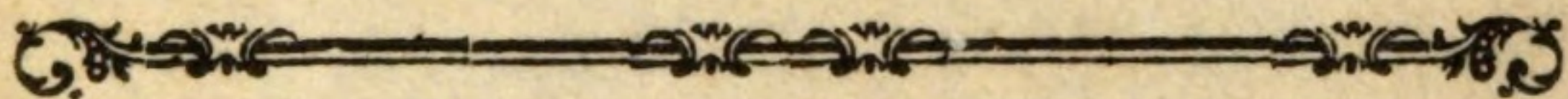
Be that the sone was settand schaftis ;
 And neir done wes the day :
 Thair men nicht heir schriken of chaftis
 Quhen that thai went thair way.
 Had thair bein mair made of this fang,
 Mair suld I to yow fay.
 At beltane ilka bodie bownd
 To Peblis to the Play.

Two

XXV.

He spilit lyk ane faderles sole ;
 And be still my sweit thing.
 Be the halpynd of Peblis
 I may nocht rest for greeting.
 He dubillit, and he pytit payt,
 To mak his blyth that meining :
 My hony hart how lavis the lang,
 Thair fall be mirth at our meeting.
 Of Peblis to the Play.

XXVI.



INTRODUCTION

T W O

ANCIENT SCOTISH POEMS,

COMMONLY ASCRIBED TO

K I N G J A M E S, V.



THE HISTORY OF THE

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ANCIENT SCOTISH POEMS,

COMMONLY ASCRIBED TO

KING JAMES V.

THE HISTORY OF THE



INTRODUCTION.

THE subject of the two following ballads are night adventures of king James V, who, as is said, used frequently in his juvenile days, to make excursions by himself thro' the country in disguise.

UNIVERSAL tradition down to the present time has given the first of these, *viz.* the Gaberlunzie Man, as the composition of that sprightly and accomplished prince, who was a poet himself, and one of the greatest promoters of poetry, and of the liberal arts and sciences of his age. Of this the bright constellation of poets, which in his time adorned our Northern Hemisphere, does sufficiently attest. Such were Dunbar, Bellenden, Dean of Murray, Henryson, Montgomery, Sir Richard

INTRODUCTION.

Maitland, and Sir David Lindsay, who flourished in his time.

THE ballad of the Jollie Beggar, is surely not the composition of king James. From the language it evidently seems to be of a more modern date; and tho' no mean performance, it does not equal the king's poem in humour. We give it a place here, only from the subject which is similar to the Gaberlunzie, and as throwing traditionary light on the story of the last ballad, to wit, that in the king's excursions, he took care to have some of his knights attendant at a distance, so as to secure him against danger or insult, while in disguise.

The circumstance, of blowing his horn and
—*Four and twenty belted knights came riding o'er
the hill.*

And on his emerging from his disguise, and appearing

—*The bravest gentleman that was amang them a'.*
Are truly picturesque, and might furnish a subject for a Hermskirk or a Teniers.

GABERLUNZIE-MAN.

I.

THE pauky auld Carle came o'er the lee,
 Wi' mony gude eens and days to mee,
 Saying, Gudewife, for zour courtesie,
 Will zee ludge a filly poor man.
 The night was cauld, the carle was wat,
 And down azont the ingle he fat;
 My dochter's shouthers he 'gan to clap,
 And cadgily ranted and sang.

II.

O Wow! quo' he, war I as free,
 As first whan I saw this country,
 How blythe and mirry wad I be!
 And I wad never think lang.
 He grew canty, and scho grew fain;
 But little did her auld minny ken
 What thir flee twa togidder war sayen,
 Whan wooing they war sae thrang.

III.

III.

And O! quo' he, ann zee war as black,
 As evir the crown o' your daddy's hat,
 'Tis I wad lay thee be me bak,
 And awa wi' thee I'd gang.

And O! quo' sho, ann I war as whyte
 As er the snaw lay on the dyke,
 I'd cleid me braw and lady like,
 And awa wi' thee I'd gang.

IV.

Between the twa was made a plot,
 They raise a wee befor the cock,
 And wylily they shot the lock,
 And fast to the bent ar they gane.
 Upon the morn the auld wyf raise,
 And at her leisure pat on her claife,
 Syne to the servants bed scho gaes,
 To speir for the filly poor man.

V.

She gaed to the bed whar the beggar lay,
 The straie was cauld, he was away;
 Scho clapt her hands, cry'd, dulefu-day!
 For some o' our gier will be gane.
 Sume ran to coffers, and sume to kists,
 But nought was stown that cou'd be mist;
 She dancid her lane, cry'd, Praise be blest!
 I have ludg'd a leil poor man.

VI.

VI.

Since nathing's awa, as we can learn,
 The kirk's to kirk, and milk to earn,
 Gae butt the house, lass, and waken my bairn,
 And bid her come quickly ben.

The fervant gaed quhar the dochter lay,
 The sheits war cauld, scho was away,
 And fast to her gudewife 'gan say,
 Scho's aff wi' the Gaberlunzie-man.

VII.

O fy gar ride, and fy gar rin,
 And haste ye find these traiters agen:
 For scho's be burnt, and hee's be flean.

The weirifou' Gaberlunzie-man.

Some rade upo' horse, some ran a-fit,
 The wife was wude, and out o' her wit;
 Scho cou'd na gang, nor yet cou'd scho fit,
 But ay scho curs't and scho bann'd.

VIII.

Mein tym far hind out o'wr the lee,
 Fu' snug in a glen whar nane cou'd see,
 Thir twa, wi' kindly sport and glee,
 Cut frae a new cheese a whang.
 The prieving was good, it pleas'd them baith,
 To lo'e her for ay, he gae her his aith,
 Quo' she, to leave thee I will be laith,
 My winsom Gaberlunzie-man.

IX.

IX.

O kend my minny I war wi' you,
 Ill-fardly wad she crook her mou',
 Sic a pure man she'd nevir trow,

After the Gaberlunzie-man,

My dear, quod he, zere zet o'wr zouno,
 An' hae na learn'd the beggar's tongue,
 To fallow me frae toun to toun,
 And carry the Gaberlunzie on.

X.

Wi' kauk and keel I'll win zour bread,
 And spinnels aud quhorles for them wha need,
 Whilk is a gentle trade indeed,

To carry the Gaberlunzie on.

I'll bow my leg and crook my knee,
 An' draw a black clout ovr my eye,
 A cripple or blind they will ca' me,
 While we will be merry and sing.

VIII.

The
 My winnison Gaberlunzie-man,
 Quo' me, to leave thee I will be laith,
 To lo'e her for ay, he gae her his aith,
 The priving was good, it pleas'd them both,
 Cut frae a new cheele a whang.
 Their twa, wi' kindly sport and glee,
 For sing in a glen whar nae cou'd see,
 The frae saw o' the wee
 Mein tym far hind out o'wr the lee,
 She gae to the wee what the bower had

XI.

THE
JOLLIE BEGGAR.

THERE was a jollie beggar, and a begging he was
boun,

And he tuik up his quarters into a landart toun.

And we'll gang nae mair a roving

Sae late into the nicht ;

And we'll gang nae mair a roving, boys,

Let the moon shine naer sae bricht.

He wad neither ly in barn, nor yet wad he in byre ;
But in ahint the ha door, or els afore the fyre,

And we'll gang, &c.

The beggars bed was made at een wi gude clean straw
and hay,

But in ahint the ha dore, and there the beggar lay.

And we'll gang, &c.

Upraise the gude man's dochter and for to bar the
door,

And there she saw the beggar standing i' the floor,

And we'll gang, &c.

He

He tuke the lassie in his arms, and to the bed he ran ;
O hooly, hooly wi me Sir ! Ye'll waken our gude man.

And we'll gang, &c.

The beggar was a cunnin loon, and ne'er a word he
spak

Till he gat his turn doon, fyne he began to crack.

And we'll gang, &c.

Is there ony dogs into this toun ? Maiden tell me
trew.

And what wad ye do wi them, my hinny and my
dow ?

And we'll gang, &c.

They'll rive a my meal pocks, and do me mickle
wrang,

—O dool for the doing o't ! Are ye the poor man ?

And we'll gang, &c.

Then she tuik up the meal pocks, and flang them at
the wa.

The deil gae wi the meal pocks, my maidenhead and a.

And we'll gang, &c.

I tuik ye for some gentleman, at least the laird o Bro-
die.

O dool for the doing o't ! Are ye the poor bodie ?

And we'll gang, &c.

He

He tuik the lassie in his arms, and gae her kisses three,
And four and twenty hunder mark to pay the nurice
fee.

And we'll gang, &c.

He tuik a horn frae his side, and blew baith loud and
shrill,
And four-and-twenty belted knights came skipping
our the hill.

And we'll gang, &c.

And he tuik out his little knife, loot a his duddies fa,
And he was the brawest gentleman that was amang
them a.

And we'll gang, &c.

The beggar was a cliver loon, and he lap shoulder-
hicht,

O ay for sicken quarters as I gat yesternicht.

And we'll gang, &c.

And four and twenty hundred mark to pay the nurse
 He took the staff in his arms, and gave her three,

And

And the 'll gang, &c.

He took a bow from his side, and blew his horn and

And

And four-and-twenty belted knights came riding

And

And the 'll gang, &c.

And he took out his little knife, took a his daddies in

And he was the bravest gentleman that was among

And

And the 'll gang, &c.

The beggar was a silver loon, and he had a shoulder-

And

O my for hicken quarters as I eat yesterday.

And the 'll gang, &c.

And he was the bravest gentleman that was among

And the 'll gang, &c.

And he was the bravest gentleman that was among

And the 'll gang, &c.

And he was the bravest gentleman that was among

And the 'll gang, &c.

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